



# Memorandum

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**TO:** Members of Council  
**FROM:** Dana Earle, Deputy City Clerk  
**DATE:** Friday, June 11, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** **Additional Information/New Business**  
**Committee of the Whole/City Council – June 14, 2021**

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## CITY COUNCIL (PUBLIC MEETING)

### Additional Information

1. Memorandum from Ms. J. Fazio, Planner II, dated June 11, 2021 referencing correspondence received relative to Report R 65/2021 (**Distributed separately to Members of Council and City Manager only.**)

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

### New Business

1. Memorandum from Councillor A. Foulds, dated June 9, 2021, relative to Endorsement – Statements – Anti Racism & Diversity Thunder Bay

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## **Memorandum**

**TO:** Krista Power, City Clerk

**FROM:** Councillor A. Foulds

**DATE:** June 9, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Endorsement – Statements – Anti Racism & Diversity Thunder Bay  
*Committee of the Whole – June 14, 2021*

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Our country has been reeling over recent news out of Kamloops, British Columbia and London, Ontario as it relates to the discovery of 215 victims of residential school in Kamloops, British Columbia and a family lost to an act of hate and violence as a result of an act of terrorism in London.

The City of Thunder Bay is committed to equality, inclusivity and denounces racism, discrimination and acts of violence in any form. The Anti Racism and Respect Committee along with Diversity Thunder Bay released two statements in the past week relative to the above noted matters. In response to those statements I reached out to the Chair of the Anti Racism and Respect Committee and as a member of City Council, it was my goal to highlight these statements and support the work of these important committees.

As such, the attached statements are provided for council and the public to support this important work as we move forward to become a safe and healthier community. It is important for council to consider endorsement of the positions put forward by Council's Advisory Committee on Anti Racism.

Further, the Anishinabek Elders Council continue to meet and are working together to move forward with the calls to action brought forward by the Truth and Reconciliation Committee. Their work moving forward as they guide administration will be tremendously helpful in our growth as a community.

As such, the following motion is presented for Council's consideration.

WITH RESPECT to the memorandum from Councillor A. Foulds dated, June 9, 2021 relative to support for the positions of the Anti Racism Committee in partnership with Diversity Thunder Bay, we recommend full endorsement of these public statements and condemn in the strongest sense acts of violence against the people of Canada;

AND affirm that the hatred against racialized people not be tolerated and has no place in our society;

AND THAT as a municipal council, we commit to working together in the spirit of reconciliation and fully support the work and guidance from our City of Thunder Bay Anishinaabe Elders Council;

as they guide the Indigenous Relations and Inclusion Strategy and administration in their work.

In addition to the motion presented above, the following information is also provided for the public's information as we can appreciate this is a very challenging time in our community for many.

#### **Indigenous peoples - Hope for Wellness Helpline**

- Immediate mental health counselling and crisis intervention for all Indigenous peoples across Canada (available in some Indigenous languages).
- [Toll-free: 1-855-242-3310](tel:1-855-242-3310)

#### **Talk 4 Healing**

Indigenous women can get help, support and resources seven days a week, 24 hours a day, with services in 14 languages.

- [Toll-free: 1-855-554-4325](tel:1-855-554-4325)
- Text: [1-855-554-4325](tel:1-855-554-4325)

#### **Canadian Mental Health – Ontario - If you are experiencing a mental health related crisis:**

- Contact your doctor
- Go to the nearest **hospital**
- Find resources at [ConnexOntario](http://ConnexOntario.ca)
- Call 911 or Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000

Statement from the Anti-Racism & Respect Advisory Committee & Diversity Thunder Bay on the discovery of remains of 215 children found at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School

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This past Friday, we were all deeply saddened by the discovery of the bodies of 215 Indigenous children in unmarked graves at the site of the Kamloops Indian Residential School on Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation. Our hearts go out to all the parents and families of these children. We cannot begin to imagine what they have endured all these years knowing only that their children had disappeared.

The history of Residential schools in Canada is deeply unsettling and is a permanent stain on our nation's history. Our committees are deeply invested in working towards a city free of racism and discrimination of any kind. In order to do this we need to share very uncomfortable conversations around Canada's colonial past. Together, we have a responsibility as leaders in our community to learn from our shared history by upholding the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions Calls to Action.

Our nation was home to a cultural genocide of Indigenous people, we must never forget the horrors and pain Residential Schools played in shaping our nation and collectively we must work even harder to decolonize and honestly address Truth and Reconciliation together. We must continue to hold space for and listen to our communities' voices, especially those of the Indigenous elders and teachers to allow for healing and reconciliation. Collectively, our committees strongly believe that Every Child Matters.

On behalf of the Anti-Racism & Respect Advisory Committee and Diversity Thunder Bay, we send our prayers, love and light to all the families who never had a chance to say goodbye to their children and to all who are affected by this tragic discovery. As the bodies are identified, we must learn their names and ensure that we say their names as a constant reminder that we must find a different path together.

Signed by:

Jason Veltri  
Councillor Cody Fraser  
Walid Chahal  
Rebecca Johnson

Chair, Anti-Racism & Respect Advisory Committee  
Vice-Chair, Anti-Racism & Respect Advisory Committee  
Co-Chair, Diversity Thunder Bay  
Co-Chair, Diversity Thunder Bay

June 9, 2021

Statement from the Anti-Racism & Respect Advisory Committee & Diversity Thunder Bay on the Terrorist Attack in London Ontario

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We are shocked by the news about the horrific and deliberate killing of the Afzaal family as they were enjoying their usual evening walk this last Sunday, June 6, in London, Ontario (because of their Islamic faith).

On behalf of Diversity Thunder Bay and the City of Thunder Bay Anti-Racism & Respect Advisory Committee, we send our sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of the victims.

As our hearts weep at the loss of four members of this family and the worry we all carry for the young survivor who will grow up without his family by his side, we collectively struggle to understand the reasons behind such hate that led to this horrifying crime.

We condemn in the strongest sense the repeated acts of violence and terrorism against Muslim people in Canada. The hatred and racism against Muslim and other racialized groups has been on the rise in Canada and cannot be tolerated any longer. Hatred and discrimination of any kind has no place in our society today. This heartbreaking tragedy is a reminder that Islamophobia and Xenophobia are real, deadly and unfortunately existing and persisting in Canadian society.

Islamophobia, Xenophobia left unchallenged and allowed to flourish sadly lead to these horrific and tragic attacks. We stand together with our Muslim communities in Thunder Bay and in London as they mourn and try to recover from yet another act of terrorism. In addition, we absolutely reject and condemn hatred, racism and Islamophobia.

We must continue to be vigilant in our fight against systemic racism and we call on our political leaders locally, provincially and nationally, to adopt tough measures and policies so we can collectively eradicate these senseless and horrific terrorist attacks from happening in Canada or around the world. We must not allow ourselves to become complacent to these attacks, it is our collective duty to stand up and call out hatred, racism and discrimination in all forms.

Signed:

Jason Veltri

Councillor Cody Fraser

Walid Chahal

Rebecca Johnson

Chair, Anti-Racism & Respect Advisory Committee

Vice-Chair, Anti-Racism & Respect Advisory Committee

Co-Chair, Diversity Thunder Bay

Co-Chair, Diversity Thunder Bay