

## **Racism Free Edmonton / Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination Terms of Reference**

Update May 9, 2008

### **Racism Free Edmonton**

*Racism Free Edmonton* is the strategic initiative directed toward achieving the City of Edmonton's commitments as outlined in City Council's Declaration of Membership in the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination (CMARD). The City of Edmonton created and is now coordinating and chairing the multi-stakeholder *Racism Free Edmonton Committee*, which is mandated with assisting the City in developing and implementing its Municipal Action Plan for a Racism Free Edmonton.

### **The Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination**

The Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination (CMARD) was established by the Canadian Commission for UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) in 2004 in response to the increasing acts of racism and discrimination around the world. It is recognized that integration of people of diverse cultures, religions and ancestral roots in Canada happens primarily at a municipal level and there are actions that cities can take to ensure positive integration and to prevent and respond effectively to acts of racism and discrimination in the community.

### **Accomplishments to Date**

#### *Edmonton City Council:*

1. March 22, 2007 – Edmonton City Council approved the City's Declaration of Membership in the CMARD.
2. June 27, 2007 – Mayor Mandel signed the Declaration at the City Hall event that attracted over 120 participants. Edmonton is one of six municipalities in Alberta and one of twenty-five in Canada to join CMARD.

The Declaration outlines the City's commitment to eliminating racism in Edmonton by:

- Developing and implementing an Action Plan
- Collaborating with communities, and
- Working with other municipalities on strategies and best practices.

#### *Racism Free Edmonton Committee:*

1. Identified and agreed upon Terms of Reference

2. Identified six priority areas for action:
  - a. Education
  - b. Policing/Justice
  - c. Employment
  - d. Youth
  - e. Media
  - f. Housing
3. Developed a work plan to guide the development of the Municipal Action Plan.

### Current Actions

The Committee is currently hosting community forums to provide the opportunity for broad consultaion with the public to help identify:

- Issues related to racism and racial discrimination, and
- Potential solutions to problems and concerns.

The Forum schedule is as follows:

Date	Time	Location
Saturday, May 10, 2008	11:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.	J. Percy Page High School 2707 Millwoods Road, Edmonton
Tuesday, June 17, 2008	6:00p.m. to 9:30p.m.	Norquest College 10215 – 108 Street, Edmonton
Francophone forum Saturday, June 14, 2008	10:30a.m. to 2:30p.m.	Campus Sainte-Jean 8406 – 91 Street, Edmonton

### Next Steps

The outputs from the Forums are being collected and will be reviewed by the Racism Free Edmonton Committee. The Committee will use the information to help develop key strategies and actions to be included in the Municipal Action Plan for a Racism Free Edmonton.

The Municipal Action Plan will be presented to City Council's Executive Committee for review in September, 2008.

## Partnerships with Key Stakeholders

Membership on the Racism Free Edmonton Committee is organizationally based and includes:

- City of Edmonton
  - Office of Diversity and Inclusion
  - Community Services – Communities of Interest
  - Edmonton Youth Council
  - Asset Management and Public Works – Housing Services
- Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission
- B'nai Brith
- Canadian Heritage
- Citizen and Immigration Canada
- Edmonton Police Service
- University of Alberta
- Norquest College
- Edmonton Public School Board
- Edmonton Catholic School Division
- Edmonton Interfaith Centre
- Northern Alberta Alliance on Race Relations
- John Humphrey Centre of Peace and Human Rights
- Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women
- Edmonton Native Friendship Centre
- Commission for Aboriginal Human Rights