

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – FEBRUARY 23, 2010**

### **PEACE TREE MONTH EVENTS – JUNE**

Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco recommends:

1. That the City of Vaughan annually endorse the month of June as “Peace Tree Month”;
2. That the City of Vaughan continue to hold its official Peace Tree Day event for schools during the month of June;
3. That the City of Vaughan also hold an official community event in June with activities and events that promote the Peace Tree theme; and
4. That the City of Vaughan continue to issue a permit at no charge for the use of space, tables, chairs, the Showmobile and other services-in-kind, as well as one staff member from the Recreation & Culture Department and one from Corporate Communications for the purpose of organizing the various “Peace Tree Month” events.

### **Contribution to Sustainability**

N/A

### **Economic Impact**

The cost of the services-in-kind used to celebrate the Peace Tree events will be absorbed by the City of Vaughan.

### **Communications Plan**

Peace Tree Month will be promoted, as per protocol, through our Corporate Communication Department.

### **Purpose**

To acknowledge June as Peace Tree Month and to celebrate the values and principals associated therewith.

### **Background - Analysis and Options**

Based on the movie entitled “The Peace Tree,” it is a story about three young girls of different religious backgrounds seeking to share each other’s cultural and religious festivities. Upon facing resistance from their parents, the girls persevere to convince their parents that learning and sharing each other’s culture can only expand their knowledge and enable them to live in peace and harmony.

The City of Vaughan, with its diverse mix of culture and religion, is recognized as one of the fastest growing multicultural municipalities in the GTA. This is a tremendous asset and benefit to the City and one that should be celebrated and acknowledged at every opportunity.

The City of Vaughan has endorsed Peace Tree Day since 2006 through the yearly organized “Peace Tree Day Celebration” event. This event is held on a weekday morning and comprises of an assortment of activities and performances, working in partnership with the York Region Public School Board, the York Catholic District School Board and the York Regional Police. While we

have been very successful with many schools participating on a yearly basis, the Committee recognizes that many community members cannot participate in events that are held during weekdays and as such, would like to expand and organize a series of other activities related to the "Peace Tree Day" theme during the month of June to encourage inclusive community participation. Activities can include multicultural sports activities, as well as multicultural entertainment.

For 2010, the Peace Tree Committee is planning to hold its Peace Tree Day school event on Thursday, June 3 and its Peace Tree Day community event on Sunday, June 13.

### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020**

Serving our citizens through the promotion of community, safety, health and wellness.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

### **Regional Implications**

N/A

### **Conclusion**

In light of the City of Vaughan's efforts to recognize and promote diversity and to work in partnership with groups to that effect, Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco recommends that the City of Vaughan annually endorse the month of June as "Peace Tree Month" and plan related events and activities with the same theme.

### **Attachments**

None

### **Report prepared by:**

Cindy Furfaro-Benning, Council Executive Assistant

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Yeung Racco  
Councillor, Ward 4 (Thornhill/Concord)