

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE    SEPTEMBER 18, 2006**

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS  
2003 – 2006 TERM**

**Recommendation**

The Community Relations Committee recommends:

That the following report be received.

**Economic Impact**

There is no economic impact associated with this report.

**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the accomplishments of the Community Relations Committee for the 2003 – 2006 Term.

**Background – Analysis and Options**

Council approved that all non-statutory committees submit to Committee of the Whole a summary of its accomplishments over the three (3) year term, prior to the expiry of the term. The attached report contains a summary of the Community Relations Committee's accomplishments for the term.

**Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007**

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council by serving our citizens and promoting community safety, health and wellness.

**Conclusion**

As directed by Council, the Community Relations Committee's accomplishments are attached for Council's information.

**Attachments**

1. Community Relations Committee Accomplishments
2. Community Equity & Diversity Committee Proposed Workplan 2007 – 2014

**Report prepared by:**

G. Hardyck  
Assistant City Clerk

Respectfully submitted by,

The Community Relations Committee.

**CITY OF VAUGHAN  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2003 – 2006 TERM**

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The Community Relations Committee continues to develop community awareness and understanding by identifying issues relating to equity and diversity in Vaughan.

Over the last three years, the Community Relations Committee reached out to a number of key community institutions bringing the York Region District School Board, the York Catholic District School Board and the York Region Police onto the Committee. The City of Vaughan Recreation and Culture Department and Vaughan Public Library Board continue their involvement on the Committee.

The Community Relations Committee has been actively striving to promote mutual trust and respect among the City of Vaughan's diverse community groups and the institutions and agencies serving them by initiating and coordinating discussions between individuals and groups to promote understanding and harmony in the community.

The Committee has provided Council with recommendations to recognize community events and interest groups; i.e. Asian Heritage Month, Black History Month, Victims of Tsunami Disaster and Pride Week.

The accomplishments of the Community Relations Committee for the 2003 – 2006 term are as follows:

**INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION – ANNUAL EVENT**

The Community Relations Committee participated in the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination annually by marking the annual event with a Poster Contest.

**POSTER CONTEST**

Over the last few years the Committee has organized a Poster / Art Work Competition annually. Students in grades 6, 7 and 8 from the York Catholic District School Board, York District School Board and the Private Schools in Vaughan were invited to participate in the event by submitting poetry, art work and photographs depicting the elimination of racial discrimination. The submissions were judged and the winners received awards ranging from plaques and gift certificates to honourable mentions. The results of the poster contest were announced on the community web page and in the community newsletter.

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE WEBSITE**

The Community Relations Committee provided enhancements to the website which is linked to the City of Vaughan website. It provides up to date information articles to the community.

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER**

Through its newsletter, the Committee informs the community on current issues and upcoming events in Vaughan. The newsletter is distributed to all community centres and libraries on a regular basis and is also available on the website.

**CULTURAL OUTREACH AND FESTIVALS**

The Community Relations Committee supports the Cultural Outreach and Festivals initiatives and has created a link through the City of Vaughan web page as a means of presenting a list of cultural/religious dates of significance for information purposes.

## **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

Black History Month has been a program supported by the Committee to help raise awareness within the community. The Committee was instrumental in obtaining significant photographs from the Black History Society, which were mounted and displayed at the City of Vaughan Civic Centre for the month of February.

## **KWANZA CELEBRATION**

The Community Relations Committee participates annually and supports the Kwanza celebration with a monetary contribution.

## **CANADIAN FEDERATION OF INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL FRIENDSHIP AND POLICE LIAISON COMMITTEE**

The Community Relations Committee participated on the sub-committee, organizing a logo contest.

## **MULTICULTURAL CALENDARS**

The Community Relations Committee purchased copies of the 2005 Multicultural Calendar produced by Creative Communications, in support of the initiative, and provided copies to Members of Council and the Committee.

## **ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH**

In 2005, the Community Relations Committee sponsored, by way of an honorarium, an appropriate Asian group for a performance prior to the Council meeting in May 2005 to raise awareness, and provided support by advertising the Asian Heritage Month and the Taste of Asia event in the community newsletter.

## **VICTIMS OF TSUNAMI DISASTER**

The Community Relations Committee was instrumental in requesting Council's support to aid victims of the Tsunami Disaster and attended the benefit concert organized by the City of Vaughan.

## **VAUGHAN DIVERSITY WORKSHOP**

In the fall of 2005, in order to provide a forum for community groups to hear about the activities of the Committee as well as to develop a better understanding of the issues and concerns of a wide variety of community groups, the Committee organized an evening event. The program consisted of speakers and a variety of exercises to explore the participant's responses to various situations. At the conclusion of the workshop the group suggested a number of priorities that they wished the Committee to act upon. The Workplan presented as Attachment #2 to this report, follows from that discussion.

# City of Vaughan “Community Equity & Diversity Committee” Proposed Workplan, 2007- 2014

| Initiatives   | Mid-Term, 2007-2010   | Long-Term, 2011-2014   | Rationale   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p>1. Refining the organizational context by changing the name of the committee, first to the Community Equity and Diversity Committee, then to the Community Equity and Diversity Congress</p> | <p>The committee recommends to Council the change of its name to the “Community Equity and Diversity Committee”, and to any further revisions to its Terms of Reference, to better reflect its commitment to these twin goals</p>   | <p>The Committee changes its name to the Community Equity and Diversity Congress---to meet quarterly, and include representatives from as many diverse groups as can be identified and wish to be so represented, as well as various City departments; headed by a steering committee which meets monthly.</p> | <p>The name “Community Relations” does not do justice to the role of the committee as suggested in its current terms of reference---to promote better relations between diverse groups represented in Vaughan. These name changes will reflect the City’s commitment to equality of access to all of the diverse members of our community</p>                       |
| <p>2. Continuing community consultations</p>  | <p>By April 2007, the committee will convene a follow-up session to its Diversity Workshop (December 2005), both to signal its commitment to ongoing consultation and to seek comments on its work plan as appropriate. These consultations will continue on a semi-annual basis, to build a broader and wider range of contacts within the growing diversity of Vaughan.</p> | <p>The Congress (see above) meets quarterly to identify challenges/issues of concern; the steering committee addresses these via monthly meetings</p>  | <p>Community consultations are excellent means of identifying issues/challenges of concern to the citizens of Vaughan. The creation of a congress will ensure that such consultations will benefit from a broad range of input from community groups on a quarterly basis, with the steering committee responsible for implementation on a month-by-month basis</p> |
| <p>3. Promoting outreach activities targeting school age youth</p>  | <p>The committee articulates and implements a school board-partnership model to promote outreach activities targeting at-risk youth, and identifies funding sources to support pilot projects to this end</p>   | <p>In partnership with school boards, the City will operate pilot projects in “high priority” locations, those with significant number of at-risk youth</p>  | <p>Schools are frequently the locations where challenges of potential impact to the wider community first reveal themselves. Hence, outreach partnerships to high priority school populations may provide early warnings of such challenges</p>   |

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| <p>4. <i>Furthering diversity in municipal staff</i></p>                                    | <p>Human Resources Department is asked to report on current strategies for promoting diversity in the municipal workplace, providing current statistics of same, if available, for benchmarking purposes. Strategies developed and recommended to Council to promote and support a diverse workforce that reflects the changing face of Vaughan</p> | <p>Monitor the growth of diversity of staff against benchmarks</p> <p>Promote greater understanding of diversity in the workforce and the challenges presented</p> | <p>Greater diversity within the municipal staff complement will demonstrate the value which the City of Vaughan places on diversity</p>  |
| <p>5. <i>Promoting development of community capacity</i></p>                                | <p>Develop, recommend, and assist in implementing a Council-approved policy respecting recognition, via registration, of community-based organizations reflective of the diversity of Vaughan (following ratepayer association model)</p>   | <p>Convene Congress (see above), composed of registered community-based organizations reflecting the diversity of Vaughan</p>                                      | <p>Formal recognition of community-based groups is one way in which the City can validate these groups vis-à-vis the diverse communities they represent and other community-based groups</p>   |
| <p>6. <i>Promoting mutual awareness and understanding</i></p>                               | <p>Develop a "Doors Open" program in conjunction with Vaughan Tourism Advisory Committee (VTAC)</p>   | <p>Promote and monitor annually the number of participating locales and adjust program accordingly</p>   | <p>"Doors Open" provides an excellent opportunity to measure tangibly over time the degree to which various communities interact</p>   |
| <p>7. <i>Working with other City-appointed committees or task forces as appropriate</i></p> | <p>Review and comment on the recommendations of any committees or task forces as they pertain to matters within this committee's purview. If appropriate, develop recommendations and programs in response to the findings of such task forces</p>  | <p>Monitor any programs developed in response to such task forces</p>  | <p>From time to time, ad hoc committees or task forces are appointed by Council to address issues of concern to a variety of community-based groups. It is therefore appropriate for this committee to comment formally to Council on the findings of such task forces</p> |
| <p>8. <i>Identifying other issues relating to equity and diversity in Vaughan</i></p>       | <p>Convene conference on "The Changing Face of Vaughan", open to any individuals or groups who wish to participate, to identify emerging issues to be incorporated in 2011-2014 workplan</p>  | <p>Ensure 2011-2014 work plan addresses issues identified by conference participants</p>   | <p>Reaching beyond registered community groups to individuals interested in the changing diversity in Vaughan will ensure the broadest possible input on this phenomenon and any issues which result therefrom</p>   |