

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MARCH 3, 2008**

### **INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION**

Councillor Shefman recommends:

1. That the City of Vaughan as a signatory of the Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination, declare March 21<sup>st</sup> as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination beginning this year and then on an annual basis,.
2. In recognition of that day the City Officially and publically sign the declaration of its commitment as provided by its membership in the Coalition

#### **Economic Impact**

None

#### **Communications Plan**

Corporation communications will prepare a media advisory of the signing and will invite the media to attend the event

#### **Purpose**

To declare the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in the City of Vaughan and to hold a public celebration of the membership of the City of Vaughan as a member of the Coalition of Municipalities Against Racial Discrimination and Discrimination

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

In the latter part of 2006, the City of Vaughan approved joining the Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination. Although there was consideration, up until this time, the City has not held a public celebration of the approval. The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination provides a perfect opportunity to both recognize a very important historical event and confirm the City's commitment to the Coalition and its efforts. The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on 21 March. On that day, in 1960, police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa, against the apartheid "pass laws". Proclaiming the Day in 1966, the General Assembly called on the international community to redouble its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination

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

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

#### **Regional Implications**

None

#### **Conclusion**

By recognizing this very important day, the City affirms its ongoing commitment in support of diversity, human rights and equality.

**Attachments**

None

**Report prepared by:**

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Shefman  
Councillor, Ward 5