



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
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Item No. 11.4.3

Request for Council's Consideration		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Included on Agenda (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Thursday)	<input type="checkbox"/> Added Item (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday)	<input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor
Date of Council Meeting: December 2, 2014		
Subject: Establishment of a Multicultural Advisory Committee		
<p>Motion for Council to Consider: That Halifax Regional Council requests a staff report to investigate the option of establishing a Multicultural Advisory Committee. The committee would focus on ensuring that after immigration we focus on integration. The committee could also be tasked with identifying and defining the strategic role that Halifax Regional Municipality plays in the direction of local multicultural initiatives and the gaps needed to be filled.</p> <p>The committee, with a larger mandate than the Community Race & Relations (CR&R) Committee that was disbanded in 2010, could also be tasked with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updating HRM's Immigration Action Plan that was created in 2006.• Updating the C&RR policy or developing a Diversity Policy for HRM.• Considering the creation of an HRM Diversity Office.• Reviewing the Local Immigration Partnership and exploring whether it should be granted permanent funding. It is currently a three-year pilot project. <p>Reason: The Multicultural Association of Halifax would like the municipality to play a greater role in integrating our diverse cultures/visible minorities.</p> <p>Our municipality is home to many cultural communities with a growing population. We have the highest proportion of visible minorities in Atlantic Canada, comprising 9.1% of our population. Although we are a leader at the regional level we are below national average. Immigration is an important priority for us to meet labour market and demographic needs. With the exception of Newfoundland, Nova Scotia has the oldest age profile in Canada. This coupled with significant out migration of young people to other parts of Canada, means that the labour pool will contract by 20% in the next 10 years.</p> <p>There are some well-established resources for specific ethnic groups, however, not all groups have local resources.</p> <p>Local government has an important role to play in supporting minorities and new residents and celebrating diversity in communities. FCM encourages municipal governments to develop policies and programs to foster social inclusiveness and support diversity. Municipalities across Canada have responded to this challenge by establishing Multicultural Advisory Committees and/or dedicated offices.</p>		

(see attachment).

HRM has taken some steps to target historically marginalized communities and other initiatives to support newcomer integration.

There are multiple partners delivering programs of newcomers and promoting multiculturalism, but greater coordination and action is needed to meet/exceed outcomes and identify and fill programming gaps.

Outcome Sought: Formation of a Multicultural Advisory Committee that would be tasked with a larger mandate than the Community & Race Relations Committee that was disbanded in 2010. A greater municipal role in the integration of newcomers into the communities of HRM.

*Councillor
Linda Mosher*

District 9

Best Practices for Multiculturalism and Municipalities

- Local Immigration Partnerships: Local immigration Partnerships (LIPs) are mechanisms through Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) to support community-based partnerships and planning around newcomers. LIPs are regional, municipal or neighbourhood coalitions charged with developing and implementing strategies and action plans aimed at producing more welcoming communities.
 - There are approximately **35 LIPs** operating in Ontario municipalities, with 15 in Toronto neighbourhoods.
 - In May 2012, the Calgary Local Immigration Partnership was the first LIP to be launched outside Ontario.
 - Halifax and St. John's are undergoing pilot projects.
 - In 2014, Surrey formed a LIP.
- Examples of Canadian Cities with Multicultural Advisory Committees:

Municipal Unit	Pop.	% of Visible Minorities	Name of Committee	Structure
City of Vancouver	603,502 (2011)	51.5% (NHS, 2011)	Multicultural Advisory Committee	12 Members (all Citizen) who advise Council
City of Surrey ¹	501,000	52.6% (NHS, 2011)	Diversity Advisory Committee	3 Council Members Members of Cultural Associations as needed
City of Coquitlam ²	126, 840	43% (NHS, 2011)	Multicultural Advisory Committee	2 Council Members 12 Citizen Appointees
City of Markham ³	332,000	72.3% (NHS, 2011)	Race Relations Committee	3 Council Members 12 Citizen Appointees
City of Fredericton-Police Services	55,150	7% (NHS, 2011)	Cultural Diversity Advisory Committee	Chief, Police Officers, cultural association, and community members
City of London	474, 786	16.06%(NHS, 2011)	London Diversity and Race Relations Advisory Committee	Reports to Council through the Community and Protective Services Committee (Voting members include 10 at large members, 1 French speaking)
Town of Whitby	141,580	21.5% (NHS, 2011)	Ethno-cultural and Diversity Advisory Committee	1 Council Member 7 Citizen appointments
City of Saskatoon	254,000	12.83% (NHS, 2011)	Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Committee	18 Members appointed by Council (2 from Council)
City of Moose Jaw	32,132 (2006)	4.79% (NHS, 2011)	Cultural Diversity Advisory Committee	Citizen Appointments

¹ City of Coquitlam issued a proposal for a Local Immigration Partnership in 2013.

² City of Surrey also participates in a Local Immigration Partnership.

³ The Markham area also falls under the Local Immigration Partnership for the York Region.