



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Bonnette and Members of Council

FROM: Chris Mills, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: January 27, 2021

MEMORANDUM NO.: ADMIN-2021-0003

RE: UNESCO Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities Resolution

PURPOSE OF THE MEMORANDUM:

The purpose of this memo is to inform Council of a resolution on the February 1st, 2021 Council Agenda seeking Council to approve the Town joining the United Nation's Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities.

BACKGROUND:

The Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities is a network of Canadian local governments committed to diversity and inclusion that is coordinated by the Canadian Commission for the United Nation's Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The Coalition seeks to:

- Improve municipal practices to advance social inclusion;
- Establish policies to eradicate all forms of racism and discrimination; and
- Promote human rights and diversity.

COMMENTS:

The Coalition is currently seeking new members. Mayor Bonnette was contacted about joining the Coalition in 2020 and consulted with staff about the benefits of joining and to bring forward Town membership for Council consideration. Joining the Coalition will assist the Town to develop a diversity, equity and anti-racism strategy that is being undertaken with community partners.

To join the Coalition requires a formal resolution from Council and the signing of a formal declaration (Attachment 1). It also requires that the Town endorse the Coalition's 10 Common Commitments and formalize a plan of action to foster change.

The Coalition's 10 Common Commitments are

The municipality as a guardian that respects the public interest

1. Increasing vigilance against systemic and individual discrimination.
2. Monitoring discrimination in the municipality and taking action to address it.
3. Supporting individuals who experience discrimination.
4. Providing police services that are exemplary institutions for fighting discrimination.

The municipality as an organization that upholds human rights

5. Providing equal opportunities as a municipal employer, service provider, and contractor.
6. Supporting measures that promote equity in the labour market.
7. Challenging discrimination and promoting diversity and equal opportunities in housing.

The municipality as a community that promotes diversity

8. Involving citizens by giving them a voice in anti-racism initiatives and decision-making.
9. Challenging discrimination and promoting diversity and equal opportunities in education and other forms of learning.
10. Promoting the respect, knowledge, and appreciation of cultural diversity and the inclusion of Indigenous and racialized communities in the cultural fabric of the municipality.

Staff is supportive of joining the Coalition. The Town is commencing work that aligns with the Coalition approach. Joining will provide an opportunity to learn from the 82 other municipalities across Canada who are members of the Coalition. It will also provide access to resources and networks to support the Town in its diversity and equity strategy development and it will demonstrate the Town's commitment to bringing constructive change.

CONCLUSION:

Once Council passes the resolution to seek membership in the Coalition, staff will work with the Canadian Commission for UNESCO to formally submit the Town's application to the Coalition for Inclusive Municipalities.

Reviewed and approved by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Mills', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Chris Mills, P. Eng, Acting Chief Administrative Officer