
Subject: Actions & Resources to Join the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities

Report to: Regional Council

Report date: Thursday, September 19, 2019

Recommendations

1. That Council **RESOLVE** to join the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities (CIM), formerly known as Canadian Coalition for Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination (CCMARD) and **SIGN** a declaration to support the ten CIM commitments; and
2. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to create supporting governance structures with internal and external stakeholders to advise on internal diversity, equity, and inclusion issues and support the creation of a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan; and
3. That the dedicated resources required for developing the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan **BE REFERRED** for consideration as part of the 2020 budget process.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to outline the action and resources involved for Niagara Region to join the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities, in response to the motion of Council (COM 14-2019) on May 16, 2019.
- In 2017, there were 21 hate crimes reported to police in Niagara, which was an increase from 11 in 2016. In London there were 26, Windsor had 19, Hamilton had 91 and was the second highest rate per 100,000 in Canada. In Canada the majority of hate crimes are motivated by race or ethnicity (45%), religion (35%), sexual orientation (11%).
- The population of Niagara is growing, as is the diversity of those coming to Niagara. According to the 2016 census, 8.9% of people in Niagara are a visible minority (38,810 individuals), up from 7.0% in 2011. There are 18,625 people (4.3%) in Niagara with North American Indigenous origins (First Nations, Inuit, or Métis). In 2011, there were 14,720 people (3.8%) with North American Indigenous origins.
- Recognizing the importance of attracting and retaining a diverse workforce for achieving economic prosperity, a Global Attractiveness project was undertaken under the previous Council Strategic Plan. The 2017 report outlined actions associated with three objectives (see Appendix 1):
 - Supporting community readiness
 - Marketing to migrants
 - Supporting retention programs

- A strategic marketing manager has been hired to address one of the objectives, however, work has not yet been able to progress for the other two objectives absent dedicated resources.
- There are 77 municipalities across Canada that have joined CIM, with 20 in Ontario, including City of Hamilton, City of London, and City of Windsor.
- Other municipalities that have supported CIM have resourced at least one FTE for developing and implementing an action plan, and/or up to one FTE support for advisory committees.

Financial Considerations

Based on the experiences of other municipalities in Canada, providing dedicated resources is crucial to realize Council-led action pursuant to joining CIM.

Dedicated resources are recommended for a two-year period in order to fulfill the requirements of joining the CIM. The annual operating impact is estimated at \$144,000, which includes one temporary non-union FTE dedicated for the duration of the project, student support, and funds for training, conferences, mileage and community engagement. We estimate a total project cost of \$288,000 over two years. If the recommendations in this report are approved, a business case will be submitted for consideration through the 2020 budget approval process. The financial implication of these resources would be equivalent to 0.04% of the levy.

This potential financial implication should be considered in context of new budget commitments previously endorsed by Council and new budget pressures outlined by staff, as summarized in the following table presented to Budget Review Committee to illustrate the potential levy impact estimated for the 2020 budget.

<i>Previously Identified Budget Commitments/Pressures</i>	Council Report	Levy Amount (M\$)	Levy Increase %
Suicide Prevention Initiative	PHD 8-2019	0.200	0.05%
Niagara Airports	CAO 04-2019	2.240	0.61%
Waterfront Investment Program – Base funding	CSD 40-2019	1.000	0.27%
Smarter Niagara Incentive Program – Base funding	CSD 40-2019	0.600	0.16%
Brock LINC request for funding	ED 9-2019	1.500	0.41%
Niagara Regional Transit - phase in cost	CSD 40-2019	6.213	1.70%
NRPS 2019 position hiring deferral	BRC-C 7-2019	0.706	0.19%
Long-Term Care Home Redevelopment capital funding	COM 32-2019	5.899	1.62%
GO Project - Station Operations	CSD 17-2019	1.410	0.39%

<i>Previously Identified Budget Commitments/Pressures</i>	Council Report	Levy Amount (M\$)	Levy Increase %
EMS Central Hub capital funding	CSD 40-2019	0.390	0.11%
Potential Budget Pressure To-date		\$20.158	5.51%

Analysis

Background

The Niagara Region Global Attractiveness Committee Report was submitted in February 2017, written by external consultants, Sarah Wayland and Huyen Dam, in conjunction with the internal Niagara Region Global Attractiveness Committee. The report outlined current immigration patterns, the attraction and retention factors in Niagara, and an action plan with three objectives:

1. To support community readiness to be a welcoming region through engagement and fostering collaboration with key stakeholders using tailored information and data.
2. To improve Niagara’s existing marketing and migrant/immigrant focused literature and create new marketing to attract primary and secondary migration from within Canada and internationally.
3. To support further implementation of concrete programs that will retain immigrants and international students.

The objectives were supported by six tactics, and short, medium, and long term actions (see Appendix 1). A Strategic Marketing Manager was hired to address the second objective, however, work has not yet progressed on the other two objectives due to a lack of dedicated resources. Although these objectives focus on Niagara being a welcoming community, able to retain immigrants, it was not focused specifically on addressing discrimination and racism as in the CIM ten common commitments.

The Canadian Coalition Against Racism and Discrimination (CCMARD) was launched in 2004 as part of the International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities (ICCAR) supported by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The name changed to Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities in 2019. Joining the Coalition and working actively towards the 10 commitments is beneficial for municipalities to be able to build respectful, inclusive and diverse societies, for the whole region, and specifically for newcomers, immigrants, refugees, Indigenous peoples, visible minorities, people with disabilities, and the LGBTQ2S+ community.

Additional benefits of joining CIM include access to a network of municipalities across the world to share best practices and resources, strengthening community partnerships,

involving diverse community stakeholders to understand their realities, and working together to form an Action Plan. Joining CIM can lead to increased accountability to citizens around issues of racism and discrimination, and increased trust, loyalty and respect towards the municipality, as the government works towards equity, inclusion, and appreciation of diversity in the community.

Creating an inclusive and diverse workforce and municipality leads to greater economic innovation and increased profitability. A 2018 report by McKinsey & Company called *Delivering through Diversity* described research conducted with 1,000 companies in 12 countries.¹ The research found that companies in the top-quartile for gender diversity on executive teams were 21% more likely to outperform on profitability and 27% more likely to have superior value creation. Companies in the top-quartile for ethnic/cultural diversity on executive teams were 33% more likely to have industry-leading profitability.

Focus groups and interviews with community partners and residents of Niagara conducted while developing the Public Health & Emergency Services Health Equity Strategic Plan found that discrimination based on race, gender, religion, sexuality, and other characteristics is experienced by people in multiple locations across the region. This results in negative health, social, and justice impacts for individuals and groups of people.² These negative results include physical harm as well as social or emotional impacts.² Studies have shown that when services have been withheld from people from certain populations due to stereotypes and misconceptions, has led to negative social and health outcomes and reluctance to access services when issues arise in the future.³ This applies not only for that individual, but for other family members as well. There is an over-representation of Indigenous peoples and visible minorities in many social services, including Family and Children's Services, the justice system, and in the homeless shelters.

Joining the Coalition

There are six steps to join the Coalition:

1. Prepare the case
2. Adopt a resolution to join
3. Sign the Declaration
4. Inform the Canadian Commission for UNESCO
5. Announce your involvement to local partners and residents
6. Agree to develop or adapt a unique plan of action

¹ Hunt V, Prince S, Dixon-Fyle S, & Yee L. (2018). *Delivering through Diversity*. McKinsey & Company.

² Paradies Y, Ben J, Denson N, Elias A, Priest N, Pieterse A, et al. (2015). Racism as a Determinant of Health: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *PLoS ONE* 10(9): e0138511.

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0138511>

³ Ben J, Cormack D, Harris R, & Paradies Y. (2017). Racism and health service utilisation: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *PLoS ONE* 12(12): e0189900. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0189900>

A summary of the ten Common Commitments grouped under three categories are listed in Appendix 2 with examples of current internal and external facing work from across the Regional departments and potential opportunities.

Other Municipal Action

There are 77 municipalities across Canada that have joined CIM, and 20 within Ontario. Here are some of the activities and resources of other similar municipalities.

Municipality	Committee	Action Plan	Staff Resources
Region of Peel	Diversity, Equity, and Anti-Racism Committee Seven members		Office of Culture and Inclusion – seven staff
City of Hamilton	Hamilton Committee Against Racism	Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Plan (announced 2019)	Human Rights, Diversity and Inclusion Office – eight staff
City of London		Diversity and Inclusion Strategy (2015-2019)	One staff member (Coordinator, Government & External Relations)
City of Windsor	Diversity Committee Nine members		One staff (Diversity & Accessibility Advisor) – Clerks Office
Region of Waterloo (Not part of CIM)	Grand River Accessibility Advisory Committee (GRAAC) 12 members	Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan (2018-2022)	One staff member

Based on the learnings and experiences of other municipalities in Canada, we recommend dedicated personnel and operating costs. Personnel would coordinate the governance structures with internal and external stakeholders, and draft a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan.

Drafting the Action Plan would include conducting literature reviews, community engagement, and an environmental scan of best practices across Canada and internationally, as well as identifying needs, best practices, resources, and areas of focus for advancing a more inclusive Niagara that supports the ten CIM commitments.

Alternatives Reviewed

Staff considered waiting until the 2021 budget cycle to request dedicated resources for this initiative. This is not recommended as there are no staff that can be reassigned in the meantime to support the proposed governance structures. This alternative would result in the work towards the commitments and action plan to progress slower, with an action plan not being created until 2021-2022.

A second alternative considered was for potential FTE support through the Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan. There is potential alignment between the CSWB Plan and the CIM recommendations for some aspects of the two projects, however, this would require the community consultations to identify diversity, equity, and/or inclusion as a key issue. This option is dependent on many variable factors, and does not offer committed support for CIM.

A third alternative considered was to hire a consultant to conduct research and draft an Action Plan. However, this would still require FTE support in directing the consultant, and would not be able to provide sustainable support to the internal Task Force or the Advisory Committee. A consultant would also not be able to develop and sustain quality internal and external stakeholder relationships that are important for this work.

A final alternative considered was leveraging existing resources by repurposing a current position. This option is not recommended, as there are no staff available for reallocation without significant impact on core Region operations or other strategic priorities.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

Supporting Business and Economic Growth, which works towards a coordinated approach to fostering economic growth in Niagara. Research has shown that culturally diverse regions are more innovative and economically prosperous.

Healthy and Vibrant Community, specifically with objective 2.1: Enhancing Community Wellbeing with the intended outcome to foster a safe and inclusive community. Council will contribute to creating a healthy and vibrant community through advancing the ten commitments, which include monitoring and taking action against racism and discrimination in the region, supporting people who experience racism and discrimination, as well as the police as they combat racism and discrimination.

Sustainable and Engaging Government, through committing to high quality, efficient, fiscally sustainable and coordinated services. Creating an inclusive, equitable, and diverse region will enhance Council's ability to provide customer focused services, demonstrates a value to continuous improvement, collaboration and innovation, and be inclusive through reaching and maximizing the assets of all members of the community.

Other Pertinent Reports

- [COM 14-2019](#) - Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination (CCMARD)
- [CAO 08-2019](#) - Community Safety and Well-Being Plan
- [CWCD 70-2017](#) - Global Attractiveness Committee Report

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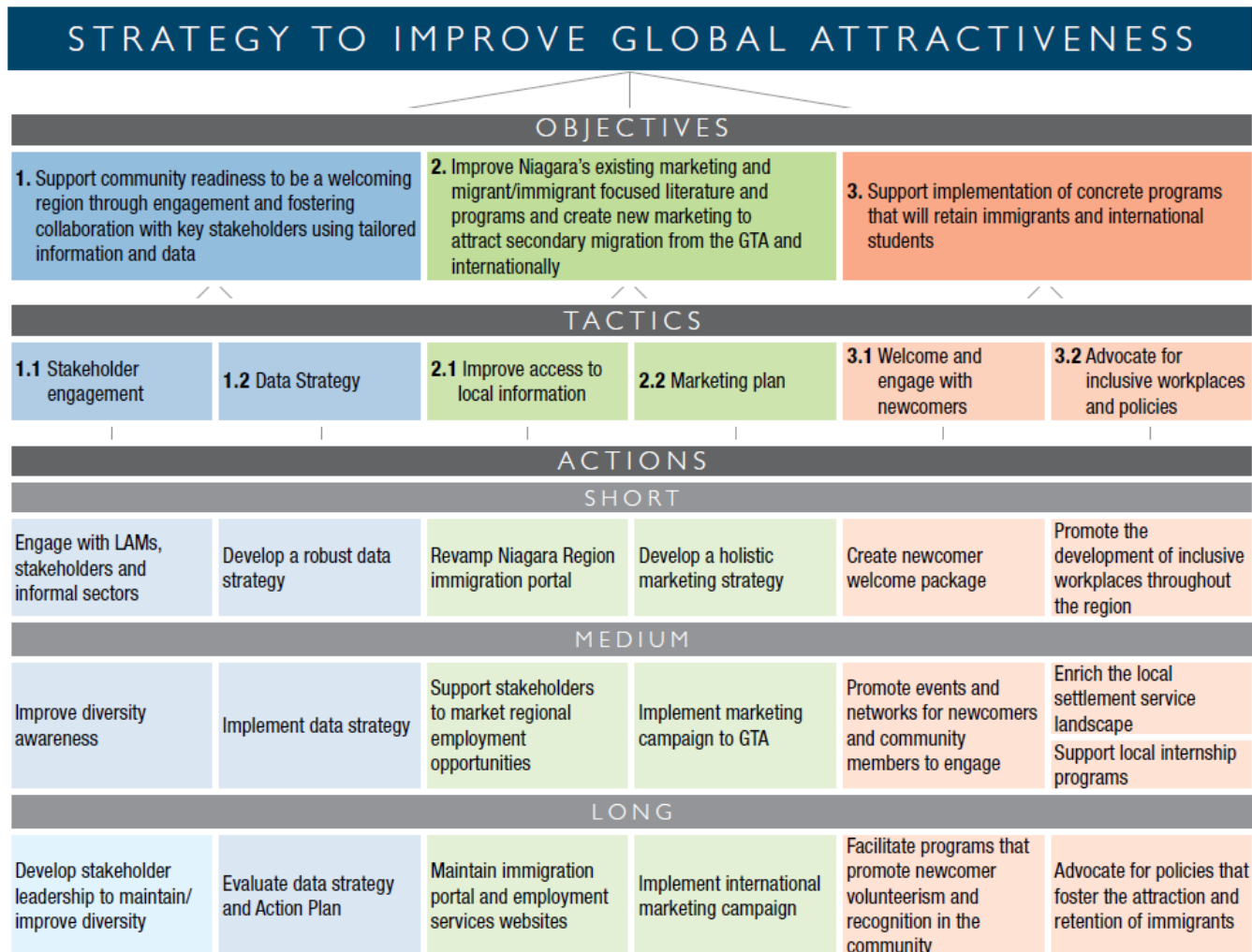
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Appendices

Appendix 1 Global Attractiveness Action Plan



Appendix 2 CIM Commitments - Current and Potential Future Activities

The municipality as a guardian of the public interest

1. Increase vigilance against systemic and individual racism and discrimination.

Current Internal Activities: HR policies

Potential Opportunities: Establish an external consultation or advisory committee

2. Monitor racism and discrimination in the community more broadly as well as municipal actions taken to address racism and discrimination.

Current Activities: None

Potential Opportunities: Report on the incidence of hate crimes, racism, and discrimination, as well as the responses taken, including areas such as housing, recreation, health, and other social programs

3. Inform and support individuals who experience racism and discrimination.

Current Internal Activities: HR Policies

Potential Opportunities: Use awareness materials and campaigns to inform citizens about their rights and obligations, including available resources and mechanisms for prevention and redress, as well as penalties for racist acts or behaviour and other forms of discrimination

4. Support policing services in their efforts to be exemplary institutions in combating racism and discrimination.

Potential Opportunities: Consult with local communities to hear concerns and receive input on responsive measures. Establish or enhance a comprehensive anti-racism and anti-discrimination vision statement and implement effective policies and procedures (including a complaints mechanism), as well as staff training to help prevent and respond to issues of racism and discrimination in policing services and in the community.

The municipality as an organization in the fulfillment of human rights

5. Provide equal opportunities as a municipal employer, service provider, and contractor.

Current Internal Activities: HR Policies

Current External Activities: Support Social Procurement

Potential Opportunities: Examine equity at a systemic level, such as auditing different aspects of the municipality's operations, including corporate planning, policy and program development, and procedures and practices with respect to employment, service delivery and contracting, as well as organizational culture; take steps to eliminate barriers; and finally, measure progress. Educate and sensitize elected officials and civil servants on mutual respect, citizenship and the obligation to protect and promote human rights.

6. Support measures to promote equity in the labour market.

Current Internal Activities: Corporate Diversity Training

Current External Activities: SAEO Employment Services, Bend the Curve

Potential Opportunities: In partnership with local chambers of commerce, set up a certification program for businesses, organizations, and professional bodies to integrate mechanisms into their own organizations for combating racism and building inclusive and respectful workplaces. Facilitate monitoring and removal of systemic barriers that impede fair and equitable access for full participation of Aboriginal and racialized communities in the economic life of the municipality, as well as access to professions and trades for foreign trained professionals.

7. Support measures to challenge racism and discrimination and promote diversity and equal opportunity in housing.

Current External Activities: 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan, Niagara Housing Statement

Potential Opportunities: Work with landlords and social housing providers, with the assistance of tenant associations and community organizations, including legal clinics, to adopt equitable policies and practices with respect to qualifying applicants and selecting tenants for market rent units consistent with human rights principles. Work with homebuilder, realtor, rental, hotel, tourist and hospitality associations to draw up anti-discrimination codes of practice for their respective industry businesses and organizations.

The municipality as a community sharing responsibility for respecting and promoting human rights and diversity

8. Involve citizens by giving them a voice in anti-racism initiatives and decision-making.

Current Internal and External Activities: Accessibility Advisory Committee, Lived Experience Advisory - homelessness, Mental Health Client Advisory, Youth Advisory Committee (YAC), Lived Experience Advisory Network (LEAN) - poverty, Council Strategic Plan (Shape Niagara)

Potential Opportunities: Take steps to facilitate and increase the representation of Aboriginal and racialized communities on municipal boards, commissions and committees. Organize regular community forums in collaboration with existing organizations and mechanisms in order to offer citizens an opportunity to discuss and be heard on issues of racism and discrimination in the municipality, including effectiveness of local policies and programs

9. Support measures to challenge racism and discrimination and promote diversity and equal opportunity in the education sector, and in other forms of learning

Current Internal Activities: Public Health – Indigenous Cultural Safety Training

Current External Activities: SAEO – Local Immigration Partnership (LIP)

Potential Opportunities: Support partnerships between educators and front-line community organizations to reach out to vulnerable youth whose access to education is adversely affected by bullying and violence or discriminatory discipline policies or practices. Create a program to recognize schools for their anti-racism and anti-discrimination initiatives.

10. Promote respect, understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity and the inclusion of Aboriginal and racialized communities into the cultural fabric of the municipality.

Current Internal Activities: Public Health - Indigenous Cultural Safety Training, Public Health - Health Equity Strategic Plan, Seniors Services and Community Programs – Diversity and Inclusivity Committee, Diversity Calendar for new International Plaza and Civic Park

Current External Activities: SAEO - LIP, 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan, Indigenous Community Engagement Consultant, Overdose Prevention and Education Network of Niagara (OPENN), Public Health - Health Equity Strategic Plan, Economic Development marketing and promotion of Niagara, Diversity Calendar for new International Plaza and Civic Park

Potential Opportunities: Support initiatives that increase expertise and capacity within ethno-cultural organizations to effect change in their communities and enable their members to participate fully in society. Promote awareness of the fact that integration of a community's cultural fabric, together with its economic, educational, social and security interests, strengthens and benefits the whole community.