

**Present:**

Councillor Locke, Chair  
G. Bremault, Vice-Chair  
A. Willis  
C. Mohr  
M. Cheema  
N. Chima  
N. Nastoh  
S. Andhi Bilkhu  
A. Begalka

**Absent:**

A. Dhillon  
S. Kular

**Staff Present:**

A. Murphy, Senior Planner  
K. Patten, Social Planner  
L. Blake, Administrative Assistant

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**A. ADOPTIONS**

**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

It was Moved by N. Nastoh  
Seconded by S. Andhi Bilkhu  
That the agenda of the Social Equity and  
Diversity Committee meeting held February 5, 2020 be adopted.  
Carried

**2. Adoption of the Minutes - January 8, 2020**

It was Moved by N. Nastoh  
Seconded by N. Chima  
That the minutes of the Social Equity and  
Diversity Committee meeting held January 8, 2020 be adopted as presented.  
Carried

**B. DELEGATIONS**

**1. Sheldon Tetreault, Facilitator, Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee (SUILC)**

Sheldon Tetreault, Facilitator, Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee (SUILC), provided a presentation regarding the SUILC and its implementation of the All Our Relations Strategy. The following information was highlighted:

- The SUILC is a coalition of Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners that provide a collective voice for the over 13,000 urban Indigenous peoples in Surrey. SUILC does not represent or speak on behalf of land-based First Nations.
  - The City of Surrey is a partner of the SUILC. The City's role includes: providing a neutral space for meetings, holding contracts on the SUILC's
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behalf, providing financial accounting for contracts and providing staff support to navigate and achieve good working relationships. The SUILC is not a committee of Council.

- When the SUILC initially formed, there was very little accessible statistical information regarding the urban Indigenous population in Surrey. The focus for the first year of the Committee was to describe Surrey's urban Indigenous population in order to properly engage and determine their needs. This information is also important for policy and decision makers as well as funding. A review of the census information available at the time indicated that Surrey's urban Indigenous population is large, diverse and young. Some of the population is doing relatively well while some individuals and families require some additional support. Highlighted statistics include:
  - In 2016, there were over 13,000 urban Indigenous residents in Surrey, according to the census. 56% identified as First Nation, 43% as Metis and 1% as Inuit. It is estimated that given the high growth rate, as of 2019, Surrey has the largest urban Indigenous population in BC.
  - The median age of the Surrey urban Indigenous is 28 years old. 45% of the population is under 24 years old and there are 3655 Indigenous children that are under 14 years old.
  - 46% of households own their own homes and 46% have post-secondary education or training. Labor force participation is on par with the non-Indigenous population.
  - 37% of children and youth live in poverty and 41% live with a single parent, with 85% of single parents being women. Women reported lower income status despite having high levels of employment. This information indicates that single mother families and children require additional support.
- With information regarding the population as well as consultations with the community, the SUILC developed the All Our Relations Social Innovation Strategy. All Our Relations provides a vision and mission as well as strategic objectives. It is important that the SUILC remains in control of the work that is being done. As of 2020, 25% of strategies are completed, 38% are in progress or pending and 37% have had no activity. A copy of the Strategy is available online at:  
<https://www.surrey.ca/files/All%20Our%20Relations%20Social%20Innovation%20Strategy%20April%202017.pdf>

In response to questions from the Committee, the delegation provided the following information:

- Housing security is an issue for urban Indigenous residents, especially considering the high levels of child poverty. The SUILC is being awarded CMHC Solutions Lab funding to develop Indigenous housing solutions and

the project is scheduled to begin in April. The number of Indigenous renter households with subsidized housing is 535; this compares to 2,318 Indigenous renter households in Vancouver living in subsidized housing. There are very few Indigenous organizations in Surrey.

- The urban Indigenous population figures do not include the local land-based First Nation members living on-reserve.
- In general, the SUILC is actively seeking partnerships to move their goals forward while maintaining a balance between engaging and maintaining control of the Innovation Strategy work.
- There is a need for an Indigenous space/centre that includes space for cultural gathering and service provision. SUILC is preparing a facilities plan for this centre. Funding is a challenge.
- The SUILC supports the intent of the Province's legislation implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; however, it is difficult to predict what the outcome of the Bill will be. Surrey is often not well represented in large initiatives so it is important that the SUILC continue to advocate for the needs of Surrey's urban Indigenous population.

## C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

### 1. Extreme Weather Response Update

Kristin Patten, Planner, summarized the on-table handout regarding the Extreme Weather Response (EWR) and highlighted the following information:

- There are 128 EWR mats in Surrey and 25 mats in White Rock. Mats are available during EWR Alerts beginning November 1.
- There are three new EWR sites this winter at Fleetwood Church, Guildford Shelter and the Phoenix Centre Site #2. The new sites were opened for a varying number of nights with varying capacities.
- The Pacific Community Services Society operates a youth only EWR shelter. If no youth arrive to utilize the facility by 11:00 p.m., it closes for the night.
- The NightShift EWR facility was previously a women's only shelter that had little utilization. The shelter recently opened to both men and women and has experienced increased utilization, running at full capacity almost every night during EWR Alerts.

In response to question from the Committee, Ms. Patten and Aileen Murphy, Senior Social Planner, advised that there are no clear trends with respect to EWR shelter utilization and that EWR sites are spaces provided by the community. The EWR Program is funded by BC Housing.

**2. Homeless Count Call for Volunteers – March 3 & 4, 2020**

Kristin Patten, Planner, advised that volunteers are still being sought for the Metro Vancouver Homeless Count. The region has approximately 600 volunteers currently signed up, which is half the required amount.

Staff can advise the Committee if a volunteer training session will be held at City Hall.

**3. Landlord Incentives to Rent to Refugees Update**

Aileen Murphy, Senior Social Planner, reported that the City's Legal department has advised that in order to provide a tax exemption to landlords renting to refugees, the property owner would have to be a registered non-profit charitable organization, or must enter a Municipal Service Partner Agreement.

**D. NEW BUSINESS****E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL****F. CORRESPONDENCE****G. INFORMATION ITEMS****H. OTHER BUSINESS****1. Upcoming Agenda Items**

The Committee requested presentations or information on the following topics:

- Youth in care and youth ageing out of care;
- Surrey's Emergency Weather Response shelter utilization in comparison to other cities;
- Female success stories and/or gender issues in honor of International Women's Day; and,
- A presentation from the LGBTQ+ community.

**2. Committee Member Updates**

- Councillor Locke advised that the Surrey Housing Summit has been postponed, with the date to be determined.
- Sonia Andhi Bilkhu advised that the Shakti Awards will be held on March 7, 2020 and nominations are currently being accepted. The Shakti Society will also be co-hosting a women's summit called "Women Shaping

Surrey: Towards a Women-Friendly City" on February 23, 2020 at City Hall.  
The purpose of the summit is to engage women in City governance.

**I. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Social Equity and Diversity Committee will be held on Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. in 2E Community Room B.

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

It was

Moved by G. Bremault  
Seconded by A. Begalka  
That the Social Equity and Diversity

Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

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Jennifer Ficocelli, City Clerk

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Councillor Brenda Locke, Chair