



Celebrating diversity-Nov 3, 2010
Fort Frances Library and Technology Centre
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order at 12:10
2. Approval of Minutes: by consensus
3. Approval of Agenda – add Respect campaign under #7
4. Mission Statement: “Working together to create communities that celebrate diversity by actively practicing and promoting dignity, respect and inclusiveness.

5. **Rebecca Johnson –**

Rebecca first saw the CMARD information in the Green file – correspondence that comes to their council meeting in the fall of 2005. She brought the information to their local diversity committee and then contacted Coalition of Municipalities. She brought a Resolution to council, to be endorsed by council. There was resistance passing the resolution. They did manage to get the community to buy in. With deputations to council from the community, eventually the City Councillors passed a resolution to join CMARD with a 7-6 vote. Diversity Thunder Bay created a task force and got the goal and objective into city plan. They have received Funding from Heritage Canada.

CMARD is a national organization. Heather is a spokesperson talking about it. Racism concerns are international. Thunder Bay is currently putting action plan together for anti-racism.

Rebecca has brought resources.

Questions were asked Rebecca regarding:

Costs – travel, no membership costs. Heather attends meetings from her councillor’s budget keeps TB aware of what CMARD is doing, etc. CMARD are in the process of developing a newsletter. CMARD is currently housed out of UNESCO. They are looking to be located with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Thunder Bay has created an Aboriginal liaison officer.

Problems – We need to find solutions to anything regarding discrimination. We do not want Band-Aid fixes for specific incidents, rather we need to fix what is wrong, Thunder Bay took a lot of pushing, but are looking to what they can do.

Roles and responsibilities, The Difference between, Anti –racism committee- (structured committee of the City of Thunder Bay with members representing interests) and Diversity Thunder Bay (community activist group)

Results of Belonging to CMARD – bring information back to TB with what other communities are doing. General community doesn’t know, but does know about the racism committee. Nothing works without funding.

If we do not recognize that racism is an issue, we don’t get any money. Federal money is where we can find the needed dollars to do projects.

How do we keep dollars for issues addressing discrimination? If we join with 40 to 100 municipalities, we will have more clout.

CMARD doesn't cost anything

First Nations Role A question was asked about the Issue for having 1st nations belong. How will they fit in the structure? Rebecca said at CMARD meeting, in the spring, that this was what they had discussed and the direction they wish to proceed. Rebecca will contact CMARD to confirm the current status of this issue and let us know.

Advantage to belong: part of the larger organizations. Chamber of Commerce - need First Nations in order to move forward. Economically, culturally, don't want to do things in seclusion. Explain the value to councillors. Need A councillor who will champion it for you.

Rebecca plans to get on NOMA agenda, and has volunteered to come and talk to our councillors,

Committee of council gets funding \$\$ as opposed to just any committee

6. **Stuff a cruiser** - inclusiveness, stuff cruiser full of toys, food, whatever. 7 gen students are going to run this program. This is so that Students can learn to work with community. The students will choose which community they are going to help and figure out why they are helping them. Need items; delivering items, they are looking at youth at risk, families who have hardship, etc. It will promote diversity and inclusiveness both through the campaign work and through the help given.
7. **Respect campaign** – Suggested that we look at promoting the RESPECT campaign in our communities, both with business groups and social service sector. We can contact Jim Lees; revisit the campaign, good subject matter. Anyone interested in a sub-committee. Anne, Christina, Nancy, Lori, Kathy Dianne, Peggy, Trudy, Tammy N. and Nikki volunteered. Anne will contact everyone.
8. **Heather** RRDSB is bringing back Holocaust survivor to Fort Frances, Jan 9, 10, 11. She will forward more information. We will see if we can co-ordinate a public event, to promote awareness and diversity with general public, as well as students.
9. **Next meeting** – Wednesday Dec 1, 2010 – Library and Technology Centre