



Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee Minutes

**January 29, 2025, at 6:00pm
Town of Petawawa Municipal Office
Council Chambers**

Present:

Councillor Lisa Coutu, Chair
Deputy Mayor, Theresa Sabourin
Natalie Chaumont, Vice-Chair
Joshua Vardy
Maryse Ahow
Patrick Aird

Regrets:

Ellen Wong
Becky Conroy

Also Present:

Colin Howard, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk

1. Call to Order

Lisa Coutu, Chair for the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee, called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgment

The land acknowledgement including a Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action was read.

3. Adoption of Agenda (additions/deletions)

Moved by Natalie Chaumont and seconded by Joshua Vardy, that the agenda be approved as amended. Committee agreed to defer Work Plan Review until the next meeting and replace with Commitment to Inclusion Agreement. Motion carried.

4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

5. Adoption of Minutes

(a) November 27, 2024

Moved by Patrick Aird and seconded by Theresa Sabourin, that the minutes previously circulated be adopted. Motion carried.

7. Introductions/Presentations/Correspondence

There were no introductions, presentations or correspondence.

8. Financial Report

(a) Detailed Budget Trial Balance to December 31, 2024 – provided by Town Treasurer

Moved by Joshua Vardy and seconded by Maryse Ahow, that the detailed trial balance to December 31, 2024, which was provided by the Town Treasurer, be approved as amended. Request finance department to correct the posted entries for the two donations from TD Bank and Scotiabank. Motion carried.

9. New Business

(a) Work Plan Review

Deferred until the next EDI meeting.

New 9. (a) – Commitment to Inclusion Agreement

The Committee discussed having a few members of EDI present the Commitment to Inclusion Agreement at an upcoming Petawawa Business Advisory Network meeting. Following that presentation members will report back on any of the feedback received to the EDI Committee.

(b) Community Pride Planning Committee Update

The planning committee provided an update on the Community PRIDE Planning to this coming year. The Committee is looking to partner with the Petawawa Library, Garrison Petawawa, Renfrew County School Board, and TD Bank in hopes of hosting a weeklong event. Exploring ideas such as a pathway walk and having an educational speaker as a possibility.

(c) Planning of Town Pride Event

The Town Pride event is scheduled for the evening of Friday, June 13, 2025. The Committee discussed options for this years event, such as having DJ Roxy, face painting, a photo booth and Mr. Dimples back again this year.

Moved by Maryse Ahow and seconded by Joshua Vardy, that the EDI Committee approves spending up to \$2,000.00 for DJ Services, face painting, a photo booth and Mr. Dimples for the Pride Event. Motion carried.

(d) Men's Healing Circle Update

Lisa Coutu and Patrick Aird reviewed the Confidentiality and Mental Health Acknowledgement for the Men's Healing Circle with the Committee members. Meeting dates and times will need to be determined, and notices can then be distributed through the Town and the Committee may explore whether other businesses would like to assist with promoting the Healing Circle.

(e) Discussion of Potential Truth and Reconciliation Project – Railway to Pikwakanagan First Nations

Joshua Vardy discussed the opportunity to explore a potential Truth and Reconciliation project regarding the history between the railway to Pikwakanagan First Nations and Garrison Petawawa. Joshua Vardy will report back at a future meeting once he receives more history and railway stories from Garrison Petawawa on the impact the railway had to the Indigenous Community.

(f) Moosehide Campaign/Red Dress Day Walk

Lisa Coutu reported she recently took part in the Moose Hide Campaign. Lisa reported that the inspiration for the campaign came from co-founders Paul Lacerte and his daughter Raven in 2011 during a moose hunt on their traditional Carrier territory along the Highway of Tears in Northern BC, where so many women have gone missing or been murdered. Since then, annual gatherings and ceremonial fasts have taken place, and more than two million squares of moose hide have been distributed in thousands of participating communities, schools, and organizations across the Country.

The Committee acknowledged support for the campaign and agreed to spread awareness within our community, amongst staff, and to provide information on the campaign during Showcase 2025 at the EDI booth.

(g) Local Immigration Partnership Municipal Project Opportunity

Maryse Ahow reviewed the Inclusion Charter Project and partnership opportunity with Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) which aims at integrating immigrants and promoting immigrant friendly services within the County of Lanark and County of Renfrew. The Committee supported having Maryse secure LIP as presenters at our next meeting.

(h) Lawn Sign Mock-up

The Committee reviewed the lawn sign mock-up and supported making a change in the wording from Working Together to Stronger Together. Theresa Sabourin will co-ordinate having the change made to the wording.

(i) Municipal Networking

The Committee reviewed the draft letter on the proposed networking session that the EDI Committee is looking at hosting in the fall of 2025. Once the revised letter is finalized and approved, it will be distributed to municipalities in the County of Renfrew.

(j) Showcase 2025 – establish Committee member availability and ideas for booth display

Further discussion at the next meeting will occur. The Committee requested confirmation of the EDI booth location and scheduling for member participation at the EDI booth.

10. Board Member Check-out

Board members provided verbal follow-ups.

11. Date of Next Meeting

(a) March 26, 2025

The date of the next meeting was confirmed by the EDI Committee as noted above.

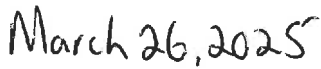
12. Adjournment

Moved by Joshua Vardy and seconded by Natalie Chaumont, that the meeting adjourns at 7:35 p.m. Motion carried.

Minutes recorded and respectfully completed for presentation by Colin Howard.



Signature of the Chair



Date Minutes Approved