

Intergovernmental Levers: Supporting Future Anti-Racism and Anti-Violence Advocacy Efforts

Issue

The City is committed to fostering a safe and respectful community that is inclusive of all, which requires a multi-faceted approach to address racism. Each order of government can play an essential role in making progress on the complex issues associated with racism within our community and society, through providing leadership, resources, and legislative tools. Developing and strengthening partnerships with other orders of government to ensure alignment and coordination has become even more urgent as growing rates in hate crimes and victimization occur within the local Indigenous, Black, Muslim, Asian, Jewish and other racialized communities.

Purpose

The following road map outlines an overarching approach and various advocacy levers that can help guide the advancement of any future anti-racism and anti-violence advocacy requirements as identified by the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee and the BIPOC community further to the Nov 1, 2021 Council motion:

That Administration work with the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee and the BIPOC community, in a collaborative decision making way, to develop actionable items and a comprehensive strategy on anti-racism that:

- 1. address hate based violence & supports for communities experiencing hate & violence;*
- 2. champion anti-racist and anti-violence initiatives to the provincial and federal governments to secure resources and support, and advocating for legislative tools; and*
- 3. work with partners to support and amplify anti-racist initiatives and responses*

Strategic Approach

To help advance the City's interests, one of the levers of change identified in the *City Plan* includes the need to support government partnerships and advocacy. To assist with these efforts, the following overarching strategic approach has been identified to align future anti-racism and anti-violence advocacy efforts to enhance outcomes with the City's federal and provincial counterparts by:

- leveraging all available advocacy and emerging government consultation channels (including monitoring newly proposed legislative/policy changes)
- strengthening issue advancement through ongoing relationship building
- incorporating a "whole team" approach to amplify advocacy efforts
 - Team Council: through City's elected officials and their offices
 - Team Admin: through City's public servants administrative levels
 - Team Community: through coalition building with other external allies (including the Edmonton Police Service/Edmonton Police Commission)
- strategically aligning initiatives and/or proposals with current government policy and programs in order to leverage existing funding, when possible
- ensuring requests are clearly conveyed to the most appropriate audience(s)
- sharing consistent messaging grounded in key facts to enhance awareness, while also identifying key champions that can echo key messages

General Key Messaging

The City remains committed to taking action to create a more welcoming and safe environment for all of our diverse residents. This includes addressing racism, preventing hate-based violence, and supporting immigrants, refugees and other newcomers to our community.

The need for action is even more urgent given concerning rates of victimization within our Indigenous, Black, Muslim, Asian and Jewish communities.

The City looks forward to working with our diverse partners and all orders of government to leverage our collective tools and support locally driven solutions to address these social issues that have significant individual, economic and societal costs.

Aligning Efforts with Federal and Provincial Directions

In communications with other orders of government, the City should “speak the government’s language” wherever possible by focusing on shared objectives and seeking areas of potential alignment in consideration of emerging positioning. The following extracts share some provincial and federal government priority interests:

Government of Canada

- Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion Mandate Letter ([Dec 16, 2021](#))
 - *“As part of a renewed Anti-Racism Strategy, lead work across government to develop a National Action Plan on Combatting Hate, including actions on combatting hate crimes in Canada, training and tools for public safety agencies, and investments to support digital literacy, to prevent radicalization to violence and to protect vulnerable communities.”*
 - *“Continue to strengthen and support the important work of the Federal Anti-Racism Secretariat to ensure a whole-of-government approach in addressing systemic racism, including through increased resources.”*
 - *“Increase funding to multicultural community programs, recognizing their important role in supporting community organizations across the country as they fight racism.”*
 - *“Work with colleagues across government to continue building on the spirit of the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent, by developing policies and projects that tackle discrimination and unconscious bias in public and private institutions, including anti-Black racism.”*
- Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth Mandate Letter ([Dec 16, 2021](#))
 - *“Move forward with the development of a 10-year National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, begin negotiations with the provinces and territories within a year, and accelerate the establishment of a dedicated Secretariat.”*
 - *“Continue the work of the LGBTQ2 Secretariat in promoting LGBTQ2 equality at home and abroad, protecting LGBTQ2 rights and addressing discrimination against LGBTQ2 communities, building on the passage of Bill C-4, which criminalized conversion therapy.”*
 - *“Continue to sustain historic Government funding commitments to Canadian women’s organizations and equality-seeking groups, with a particular focus on Indigenous women, women with disabilities, members of the LGBTQ2 communities and newcomer, racialized and migrant women.”*

- Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada Mandate Letter ([Dec 16, 2021](#))
 - *Address systemic discrimination and the overrepresentation of Black and racialized Canadians and Indigenous Peoples in the criminal justice system and ensure all Canadians have access to fair and just treatment, including by:*
 - *With the support of the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, continue to develop, in consultation and cooperation with provinces, territories and Indigenous partners, an Indigenous Justice Strategy; and*
 - *With the support of the Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion, develop, in consultation and cooperation with provinces, territories and Black Canadians, a Black Canadians Justice Strategy.*
- Minister of Families, Children and Social Development Mandate Letter ([Dec 16, 2021](#))
 - *“Enhance the capacity & effectiveness of Black-led and Black-serving organizations through the continued implementation of the Supporting Black Canadian Communities Initiative.”*
- Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Mandate Letter ([Dec 16, 2021](#))
 - *“With the support of all relevant ministers, including the Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth and the Minister of Indigenous Services, work with First Nations, Inuit and Métis leadership, survivors, families and communities to address violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people by accelerating the implementation of the Federal Pathway to Address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People, and work with Indigenous partners, provinces and territories to support the implementation of the 2021 MMIWG and 2SLGBTQQIA+ National Action Plan.”*
- Minister of Indigenous Services Mandate Letter ([Dec 16, 2021](#))
 - *“To achieve equity, you will continue to collaborate with Indigenous partners—by working together to close socio-economic gaps and improve access to high-quality services.”*
 - *“In addition, you will continue to work with organizations that deliver services in urban settings for Indigenous populations that are responsive to needs.”*

Government of Alberta

- Ministry of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women (2021-24 Business Plan)
 - *“Work with Indigenous communities and government partners to address the recommendations of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.”*
 - *“Support multiculturalism, diversity and inclusion by developing programs and policies that promote a society in which Albertans feel their culture, heritage, language, sexual orientation and gender are valued, respected and supported.”*
 - *“Participate in initiatives to prevent gender-based violence and explore new opportunities to increase women’s, girls’ and LGBTQ2S+ participation in under-represented fields such as non-traditional trades, entrepreneurship and elected office.”*
 - *“Support the Alberta Anti-Racism Advisory Council to identify ways the Alberta government can combat racism and inspire Albertans to celebrate our diversity.”*
- Ministry of Indigenous Relations (2021-24 Business Plan)
 - *“Collaborate, as requested, with other provincial government ministries to provide advice and support for the development of policies, programs, and initiatives that reflect Indigenous perspectives and consideration.”*
- Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General (2021-24 Business Plan)

- *“Review the delivery of policing services in the province, including a feasibility study of a provincial police service, to ensure Albertans feel safe and confident in their communities.”*

Leveraging Advocacy Support through our Municipal Associations

To support the advancement of Edmonton’s interests, the City often supports joint advocacy opportunities through involvement with other municipal associations which provide important avenues to support collective action and advance shared interests.

Some of the key municipal associations which has City representation includes:

- Federation of Canadian Municipalities, which brings together nearly 2,000 municipalities of all sizes from across Canada.
- Big City Mayors Caucus, which is the Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ caucus of Mayors of the 22 largest Canadian municipalities.
- Big City Executive Partnership, which provides a forum for the City Managers from Canada’s six largest urban centres to discuss potential shared interests.
- Alberta Municipalities, which represents roughly 265 urban municipalities.

The following provides a high-level summary of some of the emerging advocacy efforts (beyond ongoing member opportunities to formally sponsor and vote on new annual resolutions that can set the direction for future FCM and AM advocacy efforts) and key discussion forums occurring through these municipal associations that cross over the intersecting issues of racism, discrimination, and preventing violence.

- The Federation of Canadian Municipalities has established the following two standing committees and forums to facilitate more detailed debate and provide the board with recommendations on priority policy and program issues:
 - [Anti Racism and Equity](#)
 - [Community Safety and Crime Prevention](#)
- Alberta Municipalities has identified the following two strategic initiatives for 2022 advancement through its Safe and Healthy Communities Committee discussions:
 - Policing and Justice - Advocating for improvements to and appropriate resourcing of the justice and policing systems, including:
 - Responding to Police Act amendments;
 - Responding to the potential establishment of a provincial police service;
 - Advocating for all Albertans to have equitable and timely access to justice-related programs and services.
 - Welcoming Inclusive Communities - Provide support to municipalities as they support the increasing diversity of Albertans and the settlement and integration of refugees. Implementing Alberta Municipalities' Measuring Municipal Inclusion Grant. The two main programs that Alberta Municipalities will complete this year are: Community Readiness for

Newcomer Integration and Measuring Municipal Inclusion Grant agreement.

- Discussions through the Big City Executive Partnership (City Managers of six largest cities) are exploring areas the cities share in common on the broad topic of community safety and policing, racism, discrimination and violence. Potential collective advocacy has been identified towards the need for increased:
 - federal and provincial support and funding of the broader social ecosystem and community safety and wellbeing.
 - federal support and funding for alternative policing approaches and teams.
 - federal support, funding and legislative/policy changes to address violence in the cities, particularly gender-based violence and violence against indigenous peoples.
 - federal support, funding and legislative/policy changes to address racism and related hate crimes in municipal organizations and the greater community
 - federal funding and regulations/standards for measurement, data collection and reporting on police/law enforcement matters.

Targeting Key Government Officials with City Messaging

The following list identifies key government elected and administrative officials at both the federal and provincial levels where future advocacy could be directed, in conjunction with any other ongoing relationship building and joint advocacy efforts.

	Minister (elected official)	Deputy Minister (civil servant)
Federal Government Key Officials	The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion The Honourable Marci Ien, Minister for Women and Gender Equality The Honourable David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General The Honourable Karina Gould, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development The Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations The Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Indigenous Services	Janice Charette, Interim Clerk of the Privy Council and Secretary to the Cabinet Michael Vandergrift, Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Privy Council Gina Wilson, Deputy Minister for Women and Gender Equality; and Senior Associate Deputy Minister of Diversity, Inclusion and Youth, Canadian Heritage François Daigle, Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Attorney General of Canada Jean-François Tremblay, Deputy Minister of Employment and Social Development Daniel Watson, Deputy Minister of Crown- Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Christiane Fox, Deputy Minister of Indigenous Services

Provincial Government Key Officials	<p>The Honourable Jason Kenney, Premier of Alberta</p> <p>The Honourable Whitney Issik, Associate Minister of Status of Women</p> <p>The Honourable Muhammad Yaseen, Associate Minister of Immigration and Multiculturalism</p> <p>The Honourable Rick Wilson, Minister of Indigenous Relations</p> <p>The Honourable Sonya Savage, *Acting Minister of Justice and Solicitor General</p> <p>The Honourable Ron Orr, Minister of Culture</p>	<p>Ray Gilmour, Deputy Minister and Secretary to Cabinet</p> <p>Heather Caltagirone, Deputy Minister of Culture and Status of Women</p> <p>Shawn McLeod, Deputy Minister of Labour and Immigration</p> <p>Donavon Young, Deputy Minister of Indigenous Relations</p> <p>Frank Bosscha, Deputy Minister of Justice and Solicitor General</p>
Other Key Government Advisory Bodies	<p>Federal Anti-Racism Secretariat (Peter Flegel, Executive Director) The Federal Anti-Racism Secretariat (within the Department of Canadian Heritage) leads a whole-of-government approach to working with federal organizations, other orders of government and civil society, to identify systemic racial barriers and gaps, develop new initiatives, and consider the impacts of new and existing policies, services and programs on racialized, Indigenous and religious minority communities. This work builds towards longer-term actions against racism and discrimination in Canada.</p> <p>LGBTQ2 Secretariat (Fernand Comeau, Executive Director) The LGBTQ2 Secretariat (within the federal Department of Women and Gender Equality and Youth) works with public servants in different departments and agencies to help them apply inclusive approaches that consider the potential impacts of policies, programs and laws on Canadians of all sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions.</p> <p>Gender-Based Violence Secretariat Anticipated to be established in 2022 through the federal government.</p> <p>Alberta Anti-Racism Advisory Council (Co-chairs: Mohamad Awada & China Ogbonna) The Alberta Anti-Racism Advisory Council is comprised of up to 24 provincially appointed people who represent Alberta's diverse communities, and continues to meet to provide advice to the provincial Minister on ways to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • remove systemic barriers to accessing government programs and services • remove language barriers in accessing information • educate and inform Albertans to encourage acceptance and prevent future racism • connect with law enforcement agencies and communities to raise awareness and assist local collaboration across Alberta • identify strategies and actions to combat racism <p>In 2021, the Alberta Advisory Council submitted a report outlining 48 recommendations on how to address racism, and promote more inclusive and accepting communities.</p>	

Intergovernmental Advocacy Levers

There are a variety of intergovernmental forums and advocacy channels that can be leveraged to help advance Edmonton's interests for seeking any additional resources, support, and new legislative tools from other orders of government. Opportunities range from sending formal written correspondence to various government officials, to providing detailed written submissions through available

government consultation sessions, to hosting face-to-face/virtual meetings at both the elected and senior administration levels.

In conducting this advocacy work, it will be important to emphasize data and figures regarding the current issues Edmonton is facing, in order to make the case for any urgent support that is required.

- Support direct engagement with key government officials and advisory bodies:
 - send correspondence
 - meet with key representatives
 - participate in formal government consultations
- Explore other coalition building and joint advocacy opportunities:
 - through the City's participation with various Municipal Associations
 - advance resolution(s) through Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and support ongoing discussions through applicable committees
 - advance resolution(s) through Alberta Municipalities, and support ongoing discussions through applicable committees
 - with other municipalities across Canada
 - through ongoing discussions with the Big City Executive Partnership
 - by engaging a roster of community leaders to help advance shared interests
 - by bringing together other stakeholders from the non-profit sector, community groups, businesses, post secondary, Indigenous leaders, etc.

Upcoming Dates of Interest

On February 24, 2022, the Government of Alberta will be tabling their 2022-23 budget, and the Government of Canada is expected to release its budget in the following months, which will guide their future investments and legislative agenda. It will be important for the City to review any new government policy directions and funding commitments related to addressing racism and violence that could influence future City advocacy efforts in these areas.

The following list identifies some upcoming dates when key municipal associations will be launching their advocacy efforts to influence future provincial and federal government priority setting in advance of their 2023-24 budgets. The City would have an opportunity to bring forward and vote on any member sponsored resolutions through these sessions.

- June 2022 - Federation of Canadian Municipalities Annual Resolutions
- Fall 2022 - Alberta Municipalities Association Annual Resolutions
- Nov 2022 - Federation of Canadian Municipalities Advocacy Days
- Spring 2023 - Government of Alberta Budget Release
- Spring 2023 - Government of Canada Budget Release

Between March 1 and May 31, 2023, the next provincial general election will be occurring in Alberta. Leading up to this election, may provide opportunities to potentially influence policy platforms across the political spectrum and positively position City interests. The City can advance advocacy priorities with all parties and candidates during the provincial election campaign period by taking a non-partisan approach.