

Recipients – 2007 Access Equity and Human Rights Awards

Date:	August 1, 2007
To:	Executive Committee
From:	Shirley Hoy, City Manager
Wards:	Citywide
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

This report advises Council of the result of the nomination process for the City of Toronto Access, Equity and Human Rights Awards. These Awards are the Aboriginal Affairs Award, the Access Award on Disability Issues, the Constance E. Hamilton Award on the Status of Women, the Pride Award for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Transsexual and Two Spirited Issues and the William P. Hubbard Race Relations Award.

Recipients of the Constance E. Hamilton Award are selected by the Women Members of Council and will be reported separately to City Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Manager recommends that:

- (1) City Council extend congratulations to the following persons and organizations who have been selected as recipients of the City of Toronto Access Equity and Human Rights Awards:

Aboriginal Affairs Award:
Vern Harper

Access Award:
Parkdale Activity and Recreation Centre (PARC)

Pride Award:

Central Toronto Youth Services – The Pride and Prejudice Program
Deb Parent
Rupert Raj

William P. Hubbard Award:

Afua Cooper
Anne Gloger
Kevin Lee

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts arising from the recommendations in this report.

Equity Impact Statement

This program highlights the City's commitment to equity issues and provides an important opportunity to celebrate human rights achievements.

DECISION HISTORY

Toronto City Council established five awards to recognise individuals or organizations who have made significant contributions on access, equity and human rights issues. Nomination forms are available in December of each year. Recipients are selected from nominations submitted by the public and selected by a panel comprised of community individuals with expertise and knowledge of the issues relevant to the areas covered by the awards. Recipients of the Constance E. Hamilton Award are selected by the Women Members of Council.

The recipients of the Awards are recognised at a ceremony which commemorates Human Rights Day.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

1. The City of Toronto Aboriginal Affairs Award

Established in 2003, the Aboriginal Affairs Award is presented annually to a person or persons or organization whose volunteer efforts have made a significant contribution towards improving the quality of life for the Aboriginal community in Toronto. Examples of contributions include services or advocacy work on issues such as health, shelter or street work, governance and self-determination, employment, economic development, human rights or cultural activities.

2. The City of Toronto Access Award for Disability Issues

The Access Award for Disability Issues was established during 1981 as part of the celebrations for the International Year for the Disabled. The Access Award is presented annually to a person

or persons who have made a significant contribution towards improving the lives of people with disabilities by integrating them into all aspects of society.

Access can include the design of a new or renovated structure, program or service that contributes significantly towards the independent living of people with disabilities. Public acknowledgement of the work of the recipients serves to encourage others to help create an environment of inclusion.

3. Pride Award for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Transsexual and Two Spirited Issues

The Pride Award for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Transsexual and Two Spirited Issues was established in 2003 to mark the thirtieth anniversary of Toronto City Council's decision to adopt a human rights policy to provide protection on the basis of sexual orientation. The Award honours individuals and/or organizations who have made or are making a significant or ongoing contribution to the well-being and advancement of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual and two spirited community in Toronto.

4. William P. Hubbard Award for Race Relations

The William P. Hubbard Race Relations Award was established in 1987 and is named after the first person of African heritage to serve as a Toronto City Councillor. William P. Hubbard entered politics in 1894 and served for a total of 15 years. He was Acting Mayor in 1906 and 1907. He was an advocate of public ownership of the hydroelectric system and during his political career worked towards the founding of Ontario Hydro.

The William P. Hubbard Race Relations Award celebrates the achievements of Toronto residents who work, often without recognition, to foster a positive race relations environment. Their dedication and commitment has improved the quality of life for all in the City. The public acknowledgement of the work of the recipients serves to encourage others to become actively involved in the elimination of racism and prejudice.

5. The Constance E. Hamilton Award on the Status of Women

The Constance E. Hamilton Award was established in 1979 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Person's Case, which recognized that women were "persons" and could be appointed to the Senate of Canada. The Award was named after Constance E. Hamilton who in 1920 was the first woman elected to a municipal council in Toronto.

The Award recognizes person(s) who have made a significant contribution to improving the social, economic, cultural and political status of women in Toronto and whose efforts have received limited public attention. Recognition of the work of the recipients serves to encourage others in their efforts to achieve equality and to remove barriers.

COMMENTS

The nominating panel has selected the following as recipients of the Access, Equity and Human Rights Awards from the nominations submitted by the public.

The members of the nominating panel were: Pedro Barata - Atkinson Charitable Foundation, Alejandra Bravo - Maytree Foundation, Jeff Zoeller - Pride Toronto and Krishan Mehta - Equity Studies, University of Toronto. Staff support is provided by the Diversity Management and Community Engagement Unit, City Manager's Office.

Aboriginal Affairs Award:

Vern Harper – to recognize his lifelong legacy and accomplishments within the aboriginal community and the wider society and his efforts to promote the role of First Nations spirituality and traditions in education and mental health institutions.

Access Award:

Parkdale Activity and Recreation Centre – to recognize their on-going advocacy efforts and support services to improve the quality of life of psychiatric survivors and marginalized persons and to support independent living.

Pride Award:

Central Toronto Youth Services – The Pride and Prejudice Program – to recognize their services, public education and advocacy role focusing on the needs of lgbtt youth.

Rupert Raj – to recognize his long term volunteer contributions and advocacy role as a transactivist.

Deb Parent – to recognize her leadership role and her work as a lesbian activist through the establishment of services and programs.

William P. Hubbard Award:

Afua Cooper – to recognize her local and national leadership role in creating an understanding and awareness of African and Black history.

Anne Gloger – to recognize her pioneering community based work in establishing cross sectoral linkages to promote cross cultural understanding and positive race relations.

Kevin Lee - to recognize his leadership, advocacy and innovation in establishing programs and partnerships on a local and citywide basis to improve opportunities and remove barriers.

Constance E. Hamilton Award

The Women Members of Council will report directly to the September meeting of Council on the results of their selection.

Conclusion

The City of Toronto's Access, Equity and Human Rights Awards program gives recognition to the efforts being made to create an inclusive, barrier free city where human rights are respected and diversity is recognised as a strength.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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