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**City Council**

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**Notice of Motion**

MM2.7	ACTION			Ward: All
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**Request for Apology for the media article "Too Asian?" - by Councillor Mike Layton, seconded by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam**

*Notice of this Motion has been given.*

*This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

**Recommendations**

Councillor Mike Layton, seconded by Councillor Kristyn Tam-Wong recommends that:

1. Toronto City Council disassociate itself from the views expressed by Maclean's in its article entitled "Too Asian?" and request that MacLean's apologize unreservedly for the negative stereotyping of the Asian-Canadian community.
2. City Council request the City Clerk to advise Maclean's Magazine of this decision in writing.

**Summary**

The City of Toronto has taken a leadership role in working towards building a society in which everyone has the right to live in conditions of dignity, respect and peace. Toronto is a community in which our residents come from over 200 countries, about half of whom were born outside of Canada, with Asia being the largest source of immigration to our city. The City of Toronto respects and values the diversity among our residents which is reflected in the motto, "Diversity Our Strength".

The November 22, 2010 issue of Maclean's Magazine (Volume 123, Issue 45) includes an article, entitled "Too Asian" which suggests that students of Asian heritage may be limiting opportunities for non-Asians at Canadian universities and in particular the University of Toronto.

Toronto City Council has participated in various scholarship programs at the post-secondary level because higher education plays a significant role in achieving equality of opportunity. Moreover, Toronto City Council is a founding member of the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination, and in so doing, has pledged to speak out against incidents of racism and discrimination that can have negative consequences for not only those who are affected but for the community as a whole.

Many community organizations have called upon MacLean's to issue an unqualified apology to to the people of Toronto for the negative stereotyping and impressions of people of Asian descent who form nearly a quarter of the City's population. The City of Victoria has passed a motion expressing its concern for the impact of this article and other cities are also considering similar actions.

Therefore, in keeping with the City's leadership role in seeking to eliminate racism and discrimination, Toronto City Council is called upon to disassociate itself from the views expressed by this article and to reinforce the rights of any student to attend post-secondary education without limitation.

(Submitted to City Council on December 16, 2010 as MM2.7)