



## URBAN ALLIANCE ON RACE RELATIONS

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Charitable Registration 11928-0022-RR0001

April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013

Dear Executive Committee:

RE: Urban Alliance on Race Relations Comments to 2013.EX31.2 on April 23, 2013 Executive Committee To the City Clerk

As president of the Urban Alliance on Race Relations, I am pleased to submit comments on behalf of the Urban Alliance on Race Relations. We will also be providing a 5-minute deputation.

For over 37 years, the Urban Alliance on Race Relations has worked to ensure that Torontonians are able to live harmoniously in a city that values its residents of all diversities in our increasingly diverse population.

Toronto is known on the global stage as a city that has a high multi-racial, multi-ethnic, multi-faith and diverse population. As a city, we can take pride in the fact that individuals and groups can self-identify and can be reasonably sure that if they experience acts of discrimination they can seek remedies on several levels.

In the city of Toronto recent review of its anti-discrimination policy, we commend the staff for their work in re-examining the policy and the subsequent recommendations that will strengthen the policy. We are pleased to know that there has been a recommendation to include level of literacy and political affiliation as grounds in the city's anti-discrimination policy. Such inclusions suggest that Toronto is capable of going beyond legislative requirement to include a significant component of the city's diversity.

As we continue to build on our strengths we must remain committed to ensuring that city of Toronto policies are inclusive and not exclusive. It is important for the city to be able to engage in constructive debates so that all voices are heard without being dismissed.

We truly hope that the executive committee and the city council accept the staff recommendations.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gary Pieters, M.Ed.

For the Board of Directors