

**City Council****Notice of Motion**

MM32.8	ACTION			Ward:All
--------	--------	--	--	----------

**Denouncing Acts of Hate and Intolerance in Toronto - by Councillor Joe Mihevc, seconded by Councillor Neethan Shan**

*\* 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 Joe Mihevc, seconded by Councillor Neethan Shan, recommends that:

1. City Council denounce racism in all its forms and re-affirm its commitment to recognize the dignity and worth of all people, in principle and in practice.
2. City Council reaffirm its commitment to actively create an environment of equality in the government and in the community for all people regardless of their race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, disability, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, same sex partnership, age, marital status, family status, immigrant status, receipt of public assistance, political affiliation, religious affiliation, level of literacy, language and/or socio-economic status.
3. City Council acknowledge and reaffirm its support for the good work that the City's Human Rights Office and the Access, Equity and Human Rights Division are already doing to promote inclusive communities and call out acts of hate, such as the initiative to end Anti-Black Racism, Access T.O., and Reconciliation and Calls to Action.
4. City Council direct City divisions, agencies and corporations to review their policies and procedures and those of their grant recipients to ensure consistency with City Council's commitment to Human Rights and to report back to the Community Development and Recreation Committee in the first quarter of 2018 with a progress update on the implementation of City Council policies of access without fear for undocumented Torontonians.
5. City Council urge the Federal Government and the Government of Ontario to likewise reaffirm their commitment to creating a culture of equality in government and in society, and City Council direct that its position be forwarded as a letter to the Government of Canada, Federal Opposition parties, the Government of Ontario, and the Provincial Opposition parties, to that end.

## **Summary**

The City of Toronto frequently touts itself as a testament to Canada's diversity, declaring that this is what gives us strength and vibrancy. Every person, no matter where they came from or what they believe in, gives back to this City, and the equality that affords them the opportunity to do so is proof of the inclusiveness we have built ourselves on.

Over the past year we have watched the United States struggle to speak out against the violence and discrimination that led to a grave human loss and alarming social consequences in Charlottesville, Virginia.

The increasingly loud voices of intolerance are evident in Canada, too: Statistics Canada data shows that, since 2015, the number of anti-Semitic and Muslim incidents has risen dramatically. White Nationalist and Supremacist groups have recently held rallies in Vancouver and Quebec, and while Toronto has so far been successful in discouraging a similar rally here, it is time to send a strong message that hate speech, and hate acts, have no place here.

Respect is a cornerstone of our democracy, afforded to everyone living in this City and in this country, regardless of race, creed, or class. Everyone has a right to free speech, whether we agree with their opinions or not, so long as it does not violate the principles of human rights, incite hate, or hateful actions.

There will always be those who seek to capitalize on hate and fear as a means of social control. This is not our Canada, or our Toronto. It is fundamental to the health of our society that we instead promote inclusion and acceptance and condemn hate and intolerance. Toronto has a long history of speaking up when it has the moral obligation to do so, and now it is time to speak up once more.

That is the message that should be spread: not the voice of hatred, but the voice of the collective. Let us raise our voices together in the name of diversity, equality, inclusion, and most of all respect for our fellow humans.

## **Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM32.8