

MOTION

Strengthening Racial Equity in City Programs & Services

Moved by: Councillor Neethan Shan

Seconded by: Councillor Paula Fletcher

SUMMARY:

The City of Toronto is committed to ensuring fair and accessible services for all residents, regardless of race, ancestry, place of origin, disability, citizenship, creed, gender identity, sexual orientation, family or marital status, socioeconomic status, or other protected grounds.

Despite these commitments, many equity-deserving communities continue to identify gaps in access and outcomes. These gaps may be addressed, in part, through increased awareness of existing City programs and services, improved coordination and targeted investments. Strengthening the City's capacity to assess inequities and enhance inclusive program delivery are important steps towards eliminating discrimination and ensuring all Torontonians benefit from City initiatives.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. City Council request the Executive Director of Social Development in consultation with relevant City divisions to explore opportunities to highlight best practices, examples of transformative racial equity initiatives underway, lessons learnt from previous initiatives and publishing these initiatives on our website and through a yearly report.
2. City Council request the Executive Director of Social Development to explore the feasibility of establishing a racial justice program advisory body to provide community-informed expertise to City staff, with membership reflecting the diversity of Toronto's racial and ethnic communities.
3. City Council request the Executive Director of Social Development and relevant City partners assess the potential to support community initiatives that target structural racism through existing grant streams or through new dedicated grant streams, subject to the City's Budget process.
4. City Council request the Executive Director of Social Development to provide a briefing note as part of the 2027 budget process that includes items 1 through 3.

Date: April 15, 2026