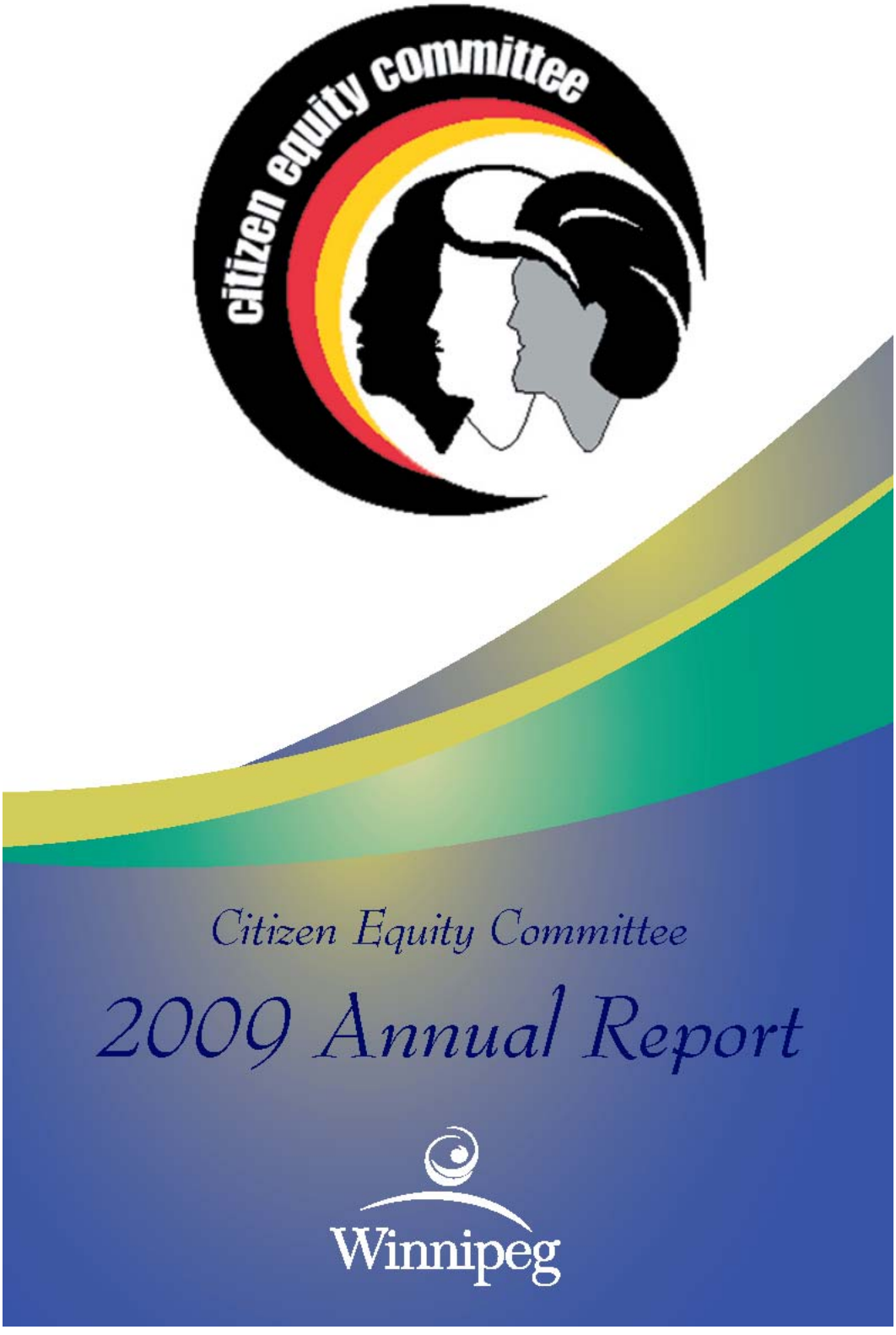
Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – February 2, 2011

REPORTS

Item No. 2 Citizen Equity Committee – 2009 Annual Report

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On January 10, 2011, the Citizen Equity Committee approved its 2009 Annual Report and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee for information.


citizen equity committee
Citizen Equity Committee
2009 Annual Report
Winnipeg

About Us

The Citizen Equity Committee (CEC) was established in 2001, based on a recommendation in a report prepared by the Mayor's Task Force on Diversity. The report was adopted on March 21, 2001, and the first CEC meeting took place in October that same year.

Since then, the CEC has worked diligently towards the goal of transforming Winnipeg into becoming the leading Multicultural City in Canada.

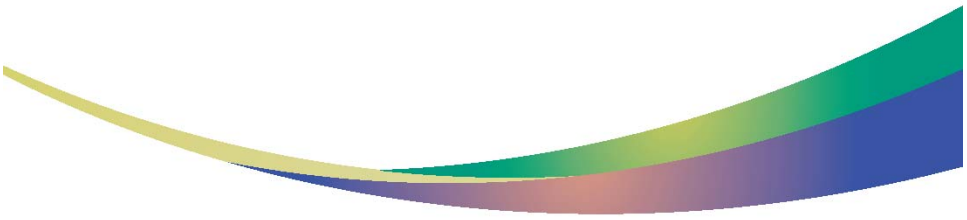
Our Vision

Winnipeg, envisioned as the leading Canadian City of cultural pluralism, in which all ethnic groups live in absolute harmony with each other, in an environment of mutual recognition and respect, social justice and inclusivity, and the City deriving strength and dignity from cultural diversity.

Contact Us

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Message from the Committee Chair



As we continue to celebrate Winnipeg's success as a City of cultural diversity, on behalf of the Citizen Equity Committee (CEC), I wish to add my voice in support of all institutions and organizations both public and private, as well as individuals contributing to the positive cultural dynamics in our municipality. The CEC finds it extremely encouraging to be part of this positive diversity changing process, and promises to be in the vanguard in ensuring that, the increasing number of new Canadians from different cultural backgrounds making Winnipeg their home, find our City the right place to be.

In 2009, CEC implemented activities that underscore the committee's long standing determination to achieve its mandate which among others, include advocacy and the promotion of equity and diversity. In keeping with this objective, our committee members worked tirelessly to support the various ethno-cultural communities to celebrate their national events. And during the same year, CEC hosted its community partners to a wine and cheese event. That forum afforded participants the opportunity to discuss and share ideas on various community issues and concerns.

The past year also saw the committee implementing its traditional events that have come to symbolize community partnership spirit and minority youth empowerment. The annual CEC Gala and the Youth Role Model Awards are raising funds for community projects and supporting the youth in gaining job experience. The committee therefore invites the various community associations in Winnipeg to attend our next Gala event, as well as the youth in the City are encouraged to participate in the youth role model contest. By working together like this, we will build a culturally diversified Winnipeg that we can all be proud of.

Thank you.

Mike Pagtakhan
Chair, Citizen Equity Committee

Coordinator's Statement



The CEC calendar of activities during 2009 was quite exciting and rigorous to say the least. The Fundraising Gala and the Youth Role Model Award events were executed with great enthusiasm and encouraging results. The respective sub-committee members ensured total commitment and dedication to the implementation of the said events. Also, the first CEC community wine and cheese event went exceedingly well. It informally brought partners, stakeholder institutions and organizations, including politicians together to renew commitment in the promotion of equity and diversity in Winnipeg. Equally significant in 2009 was the sustained support CEC provided to community cultural associations. Committee members and the coordinator responded to invitations from various community associations in Winnipeg, and supported them in celebrating their cultural events.

It was encouraging to note the second edition of the *"Know Your Multicultural Neighbours"* book produced by the CEC received a positive public response. Many Winnipeg School Divisions are using the book as a social studies resource for students in High Schools. The Minister of Education wants the ministry's curriculum consultants to review the book with the view to recommending it as a standard social studies resource material for high schools in the entire province.

To ensure the committee remains focused in attaining its mandate, a strategic planning session has been planned for 2010 to review CEC activities and current trends in the diversity issues that need to be addressed.

The year ahead holds a lot of promise and challenges for the CEC. Given the demonstrated commitment and dedication by committee members, we should report another successful year for the CEC in 2010.

Kwabena Osei-Bonsu - CEC Committee Coordinator







Youth Role Model Awards

The CEC hosted its 5th Annual Youth Role Model Awards on Friday 13th March 2009 in the Mayor's Foyer, City Hall.

Eight young men and women from various ethno-cultural communities in Winnipeg received awards in six categories, ranging from *excellence in sports achievement, academic performance, performing and creative arts, community volunteering, advocacy and spirituality*.

Each award winner received a cash prize, a plaque and a CEC crest embossed mug. The award winners' mentors, guardians, counselors and teachers were also honoured with certificates of recognition.



Working with the Community

The year 2009 was yet another active period for the CEC with regard to supporting and participating in community cultural activities. In all, CEC office received over eighty invitations from various community and non-profit organizations. CEC members as well as the coordinator attended these events. Both Councillor Mike Pagtakhan and Councillor Harvey Smith, whenever they attended these events, brought greetings from the City and the CEC.

In 2009, the CEC enriched its menu of community connection activities by inviting community partners and stakeholders to its first wine and cheese event on 26th November 2009 at the Mayor's City Hall. The purpose was to bring CEC community partners and stakeholder institutions and associations together informally to renew commitment and share ideas in the promotion of diversity, as well as round off the year's activities.



The guests included the then newly appointed Minister of Labour and Multiculturalism, Hon. Jennifer Howard; the leader of the Liberal Party, Hon. Dr. Jon Gerrard; and the chair of the Manitoba Human Rights Commission, Mr. Jerry Woods. Most participants were presidents of community associations and organizations, members of the civil society and the media.



Other activities of the CEC included the CEC Office providing a paid six month clerical internship to a youth using the proceeds of the 2009 Gala and a practicum to a student seeking event planning experience to complete her studies at Red River College.



Monitoring Equity and Diversity Efforts

During 2009, the CEC received monthly reports on corporate and departmental activities related to creating and maintaining a more diverse and respectful workplace.

The CEC monitors and provides recommendations related to diversity training and education provided to City of Winnipeg employees as well as other projects such as internships, scholarship programs and outreach efforts. The City of Winnipeg continues to make progress. In 2009, the City's hiring exceeded the labour market availability for three of the four designated groups ***(women, Aboriginal people and members of visible minorities)***. Persons with disabilities were under-represented in the hiring pool. The City's internship program continues to focus on Aboriginal and visible minority youth and persons with disabilities with added emphasis to recruit persons with disabilities.





Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination (CMARD)

In March 2009, the City Winnipeg was represented at the National CMARD Conference in Calgary by Councillor Harvey Smith and the CEC coordinator. Resolutions that emerged from the conference included:

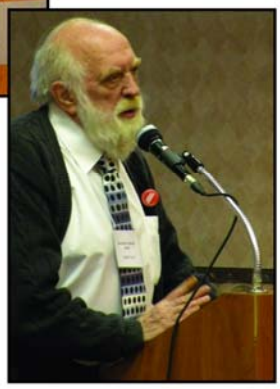
- renewed commitment by municipal members of the coalition to implement the 10 CMARD Commitments;
- acknowledgement of racism in Canada and the need to eliminate all forms of discrimination; and
- the need to attract the remaining Canadian municipalities to join CMARD. In another resolution, the Calgary CMARD conference urged the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to make strong and ongoing commitment to the CMARD program.



In December 2009, Winnipeg's CMARD organized its maiden conference and workshop at the Clarion Hotel with its community partners and stakeholder institutions and organizations to build consensus towards the preparation of its Action Plan. His Worship Mayor Sam Katz was the special guest of honour. In his address, he strongly reinforced the need to eliminate racism and discrimination which he described as an inhuman practice. Also in attendance were Councillor Harvey Smith, the chair of CMARD, Councillor Mike Pagtakhan, and representatives from the Provincial and Federal governments. Officials from important CMARD partner public and private institutions and organizations also attended the conference.







Besides local participants, there were representatives from the Canada Race Relations Foundation, Thunder Bay, UNESCO and Toronto. Messages of goodwill were received from Edmonton and other CMARD municipalities across Canada.

Multicultural Gala

The 2009 CEC Fundraising Gala was held on Friday 24th April at the Canad Inn Garden City on McPhillips Street. The event raised $7,800.00, in support of a youth internship program. The level of participation was excellent with over 250 people, including City Councillors, CEC members and representatives from various ethno-cultural and Aboriginal communities, as well as non-profit, public and private organizations. The quality of cultural displays by the Metis, Filipino, Guyanese and other communities reflected the true multiculturalism of Winnipeg.









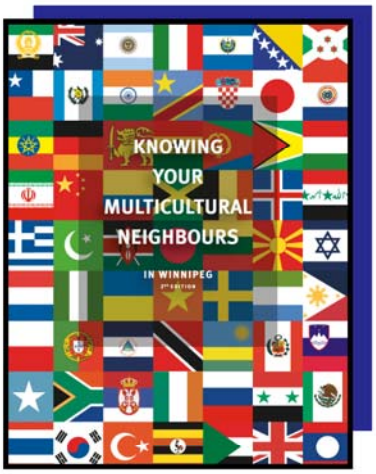


New and Departed CEC Members

At the end of 2009, CEC bid farewell to two of its long serving members, Mr. Ray Ali and Mr. David Laird.

Mr. Laird who represented the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of the City on the committee retired. Mr. Ali, a community representative, had served the maximum three two-year consecutive terms. Mr. Ali will particularly be missed for his resourcefulness, commitment and dedication to the committee's work. He was the brain behind the ***"Knowing Your Multicultural Neighbours"*** book project. Also, in the course of the year, another community member, Mr. Gary Ng, offered his resignation due business commitments.

On behalf of the CEC, I wish to express the committee's profound gratitude and appreciation to our former colleagues for their invaluable contribution in the promotion of equity and diversity in Winnipeg.



2009 Financial Report

Financial Situation	Total Budget	Total Expenditure
	$69,000	$68,965.71
Un-used Funds		$ 34.29

CEC is Thankful

In 2009, the CEC benefited from the yearly financial grant it receives from the City. The committee is deeply thankful to the Mayor, the City Councillors and the entire City Administration for the continuous financial support. And on its part, the committee will continue to work relentlessly, towards making Winnipeg a shining example of an enduring multicultural municipality in Canada.

Similarly, the CEC is grateful to the Provincial and Federal Governments for the on-going cooperation and collaboration it receives from public officials who contribute by serving on the committee to promote cultural diversity in the City of Winnipeg.



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