

Diversity Thunder Bay
Year at a Glance
January 1st - August 31st 2014

Co-chairs: Rebecca Johnson; Walid Chahal
Secretary: Brenda Reimer (bjreimer@tbaytel.net)
Treasurer: Evelina Pan

Meetings

Diversity Thunder Bay met monthly with the exception of March (Celebration Breakfast) , July and August. Meetings were chaired by members on a rotating basis. Minutes were distributed by email to all members.

Average attendance at the five meetings was 14 compared to 13 in 2013 and a high of 15 in 2012.

Membership

42 members (29 organizations and 13 individuals). This is an increase of 2 from 2013. Our core membership is stable but there is always some fluctuation with a few members not renewing and new members joining. First time members in 2014 were Canadian Mental Health Association, St.Joseph's Care Group; TBT Engineering; Victorian Order of Nurses; Isha Azandossessi, Bruce Hyer M.P. Linda McGuire and Kerry Youmans.

Finances

Diversity Thunder Bay annual membership fee is \$20.00. In addition to memberships we have accumulated some monies each year from our International Day for the Elimination of Racism and Discrimination Breakfasts. Total assets as of August 31st, 2014 were \$12,476.90. These assets include a \$5000 annual term deposit earmarked as seed money for the Breakfast Planning Committee. During the first 8 months of 2014 we supported the following community organizations and events: Pride Week; Black History Month.

Projects and Committee Activities

Website

<diversitythunderbay.ca >

With some help from Lisa Owens the website is now current. The Education and Communications Committee chaired by Paul Berger is soliciting pictures for the site to keep it fresh.

International Day for the Elimination of Racism and Discrimination Breakfast

The 8th Annual Breakfast was held on March 20th 2014 at the Victoria Inn with 449 in

attendance. Keynote speaker was Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish author of I Shall Not Hate :A Gaza Doctor's Journey. His message of hope and belief that small individual actions can make a difference in terms of racism was well received.

Tina Tucker and Lisa Beckwick chaired the Breakfast Planning Committee and Pat Forrest of Forrest Marketing was again contracted as the co-ordinator. There were 17 sponsors for a total of \$16,700 in cash and \$900 in in-kind support. The strong sponsorship support and the higher than anticipated attendance offset the significant speaker's fee and left a small profit of \$1,300.

Diversity members were unanimous in their support for a 9th Annual Breakfast to be held at the same venue, Victoria Inn. A date of Thursday March 19th 2015 was set. Tina Tucker and Lisa Beckwick agreed to co-chair the committee.

Strategic Planning and Terms of Reference

A strategic planning session was held with the City of Thunder Bay Anti-Racism Committee in February 2014. Margaret Wanlin facilitated the event which looked at planning in relation to the 10 Common Commitments of the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination. As a result of this joint planning session the two groups agreed to have two joint committees. Diversity Thunder Bay will take the lead on the Incidence Committee and the Anti-Racism Committee will take the lead on the Public Education and Advocacy Committee. Aside from these changes Diversity Thunder Bay continued work on the strategic plan developed in May 2011, modifying and adapting it as required. Special thanks to Rebecca Johnson for her diligent work in doing the updating.

Executive Committee

During 2014 the Executive met in January, May and August to ensure that our growing organization stayed on track.

Education and Communication Committee

The committee has recommended that the 5 Segments of Walk a Mile be used as the educational component of meetings. This will carry us into the fall of 2014.

The committee welcomed the following Public Relations opportunities:

Distributed frisbees and pens at Pride in the Park.

Walid Chahal and Brenda Reimer were interviewed by Steve Mantis for Community Television.

Brenda Reimer and Rebecca Johnson attended the Chamber of Commerce Awards gala where Diversity Thunder Bay was one of the nominees for the Strategic Leadership in Diversity Award.

In other activities:

Worked with Lisa Owens in reviewing the website and keeping it current.

Continued to partner with City of Thunder Bay Anti-Racism Advisory Committee to produce articles to be published in the Chronicle Journal under the heading of One City Many Voices.

Explored educational opportunities for the future.

Incidence Committee

The purpose of the committee is to liaise with other groups such as the Friendship Centre and Regional Multicultural Youth Centre to determine if there is a practical and useful way in which incidents involving racism can be reported and tracked.

The committee has been in discussion with 211 and is currently working on a protocol and reporting document with a view to having a phone line to report incidents motivated by race or gender but not deemed serious enough to involve the police. It is hoped that this could be launched in 2015.

Monitor, Network and Support

As part of strategic planning it was identified that Diversity Thunder Bay needs to keep informed about current issues and advocate and provide support and encouragement where possible.

Diversity Thunder Bay also needs to network with other community organizations and show support for groups doing similar work in the community.

In 2014 this included:

Interview for Community Television - Walid Chahal and Brenda Reimer

Panel on CBQ Radio - Brenda Reimer

Participation in Black History Month

Participation in Pride in the Park

Participation in Pride Breakfast

Meeting with Damian Lee - Paul Berger

Request from Regional Multicultural Youth for support in their efforts to get School Councils to deal with issues such as racism - referred to Public Education and Advocacy Committee

City of Thunder Bay Anti - Racism Advisory Committee

Paul Carr and Tina Tucker are our representatives on this committee.

After the joint planning session in February Diversity Thunder Bay and the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee have two committees in common as mentioned above.

Memberships and Affiliations

Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition.

Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination (CCMARD).

Recognition

Nomination for Chamber of Commerce Award

Nomination to Canadian Race Relations Foundation's 2014 Awards of Excellence for the Annual Celebration Breakfast