

Council to Consider Establishing EDI Program

By Maurice Rees

Colchester could become a leader in recruitment by adoption of an EDI program, which not only indicates, they are proud of what they do and have the input of staff to help demonstrate they are doing what they say they are doing and Colchester is a great place to work and will help attract the best people. The matter was discussed and approved at council's committee meeting on January 15th and is being sent to council's meeting for approval.

Establishment of an Equity,

Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Committee would comprise municipal staff and elected officials. Our organization has done well to foster an inclusive

environment; with a mandate to build upon existing policies to enhance equity, diversity, and inclusion in the Municipality's operations, workplaces, and engagements with the public; Identify and eliminate all barriers to participation in municipal services, programs, processes, and public engagement; Encourage a diverse workforce through

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

policy and staff training and education; Ensure that employees from minoritized and marginalized groups feel safe and valued at work and Under-

stand how municipalities can play a role in eliminating systemic racism and other oppressive systems.

Joanna Burris who helped foster the idea, told council there is value in being proactive rather than being reactive. Councillor Parker mentioned at his place of work they have an e-learning site, segments can be 30-45 minutes with a quiz at the end. Recently he had three such topics forwarded to him. Taggart and Boutilier spoke on the matter agreeing it was the way to do.

Council Sets March 4TH & 8TH for Grant Presentations

By Maurice Rees

A detailed schedule for council and committee meetings for all of 2021 was approved at council committee. Council will continue with committee on second Thursday and full council on the fourth Thursday. On motions by Councillors Taggart and

Benoit.

With regard to Grant Presentation Schedule Craig Burgess informed committee there are approximately 30 - 40 Grants to Non-Profit applications and Community Events Grants applying each year. The estimated time required for presentations is 7

hours and will be spread over two meetings on March 4th and 8th starting at 6:00 pm and will be held virtually. For some groups that cannot do a virtual presentation externally, an option is being considered to set up a workstation in the library within the building to permit presenters utilize for

their presentation.

On motions by Mayor Blair and Council Johnson, council Committee is recommending to Council the request for a Loan Guarantee for a replacement fire apparatus unit in the amount of \$750,000 from the Valley-Kemptown and District Fire Brigade be approved.

Nova Scotia Children Living in Poverty Report

In Nova Scotia there are 41,370 children who live in poverty based on the most recent data. The 2020 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Nova Scotia reveals that the percentage of children living in low-income circumstances in Nova Scotia has increased to 24.6%, up from 24.2% in 2017 (a 1.7% increase). Nova Scotia has a slightly higher rate of child poverty than it did in 1989 when the House of Commons promised to end it by the year 2000. Between 1989 and 2018, child poverty rates decreased in every province and territory except Nova Scotia.

As primary author, Lesley Frank, Acadia University Professor and CCPA-NS Research Associate, states, "The child poverty rate increased in 2018 in Nova Scotia, demonstrating growing inequality on top of our historic poor performance on poverty reduction. I struggle to find the words to describe how I feel about that. I move between anger, sadness, to embarrassment - and an overwhelming sense of worry for families struggling through hardship now. With so much to celebrate about our province - when can we be proud of doing right by these families and children?"

Laura Fisher, Report Card co-author, MA student at Acadia University, and CCPA-NS Research Associate, provides these reflections: "We need to resist becoming numb to these devastating numbers and consider the real impact on real families and children. With the current and projected impacts of COVID on family and child poverty in this province, it is more urgent than ever that we do not look away. It is urgent that the provincial government implement policy changes swiftly to both lift families from poverty and prevent more children from joining their ranks."

"Our recommendations have not changed very much over the past few years because very little has changed to support families with children living in poverty in Nova Scotia. While the data in this report card is for 2018, we can predict that—just like we did two years ago, without significant investment by our provincial government in income supports, any small gains in one year are lost in the next. Moreover, the pandemic likely signals that more families are worse off despite federal emergency income measures," says co-author, Christine

Saulnier, Director of the Nova Scotia office of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

This year's report card includes stories of family and child poverty amongst clients served by the Cape Breton Family Place Resource Centre. These stories were anonymized and shared by the Executive Director of that Centre, JoAnna LaTulippe-Rochon, whose reaction to the report card findings was, "The Nova Scotia government claims to be engaging in transforming the income support system. However, true transformation will not be realized until we do better by our most vulnerable families. Doing better means providing at least enough income support for families to meet their basic needs. Doing better also means ensuring families have access to childcare, the public health care they need including mental health care, pharmacare, dental care, as well as available and affordable essential services, including food, housing, transportation and internet."

This report card is released in partnership with Campaign 2000, the federal report card can be accessed at www.campaign2000.ca. The CCPA-NS is an independent, non-partisan

research institute concerned with issues of social and economic justice, as well as environmental sustainability.

Campaign 2000 is cross-Canada public education movement to build Canadian awareness and support for the 1989 all-party House of Commons resolution to end child poverty in Canada by the year 2000.

The 2020 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Nova Scotia, can be downloaded at: www.policyalternatives.ca

A Distant Love (outside arms embrace)

Though we are miles apart
Our bond stays true
Both soul and heart
Who could have knew

Outside arms embrace

We have yet a lifetime
To have and to hold
It is really a crime
When the bed is so cold

Outside arms embrace

You are in a dream
You are in a park
You are along the stream
You are in the dark

Outside arms embrace

I wait for you
But you never arrive
You know it is true
It eats me alive

Outside arms embrace

You knock at the door
It opens up our love
My dear one once more
From the heavens above!

Outside arms embrace

**God bless and thank-you
Thomas a. Marshall (ex-navy)**

Lenore Zann

Member of Parliament, Cumberland-Colchester

Email: Lenore.Zann@parl.gc.ca

Truro

40 Inglis Place
Truro, Nova Scotia
B2N 4B4
Telephone: 902-895-2863
Fax: 902-895-9544

Amherst

35 Church Street
Amherst, Nova Scotia
B4H 3A7
Telephone: 902-667-8679
Fax: 902-667-0742



Scotia Metal Products Ltd

Metal Roofing & Siding

Made in Nova Scotia

Many Colours to choose from

Visit our showroom at

188 Joseph Zatzman Drive Dartmouth

902-468-7217

www.scotiametal.ca