



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee Minutes

October 1, 2025, 7:00 p.m.
Bradford Community Hub
177 Church Street, Program Room C
Bradford, ON

Members Present:	Jennifer Bahinski Parker Cotton Afsaneh Sabet	Yogita Tiwari Rebecca Williams-Reda
Regrets:	James Leduc, Mayor	Cheraldean Duhaney, Councillor
Staff Present:	Monica Marques, Committee Coordinator	
Staff Absent:	Geoff McKnight, CAO	

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and the Land Acknowledgement was read.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Resolution DEI-2025- 15

Moved By Afsaneh Sabet

Seconded By Parker Cotton

That the Committee Agenda dated October 1, 2025 be adopted as printed.

CARRIED

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

4. Presentations/Deputations

There were no presentations or deputations.

5. Open Forum

There were no participants for Open Forum.

6. Adoption of Minutes

Resolution DEI-2025- 16

Moved By Afsaneh Sabet

Seconded By Yogita Tiwari

That the minutes of the June 4, 2025 meeting be adopted as printed.

CARRIED

7. Correspondence

There were no items of correspondence.

8. Business

8.1 Youth Ready Job Fair - Post Event Recap

The committee reviewed the Final Report for the Youth Ready Job Fair submitted by the Economic Development Department. Members commended the strong turnout, noting that participation exceeded expectations. The committee agreed that the event was highly successful and recommended that it be held annually, with the suggestion that future fairs take place slightly earlier to align with the release of summer job opportunities.

Committee members requested additional information regarding the employers who participated in the job fair and the outcomes of the 90-day employee monitoring process. Staff will follow up with the Economic Development Department to obtain this information and provide an update to the committee.

8.2 3rd Annual DEI Symposium

The committee held a detailed discussion regarding the last symposium event, including its structure, observations, successful aspects, and opportunities for improvement. Members noted that there was no formal process in place to measure the event's effectiveness and agreed that future events should include a method for evaluation and be structured differently to support that goal. The

committee decided to table further discussion for a future event until the next meeting, when the Chair will be present to share their input and ideas.

9. **New Business**

9.1 Colours of Community Festival

Yogita Tiwari, committee member, presented an idea to establish a new event “Colours of Community Festival”. Yogita explained that the proposed event would be an annual, family-friendly outdoor spring festival celebrating community, connection, and inclusivity. The festival would welcome participants of all backgrounds, faiths, ages, and abilities, emphasizing shared celebration rather than cultural exclusivity.

Key features of the proposed event include cultural performances, food vendors, family activities, community booths, and a colour play zone as the main highlight. The event aims to promote unity and understanding, foster community traditions, and reflect the committee’s commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion values.

The committee expressed strong support for the proposal and are interested in collaborating with Town event staff to explore its feasibility. Staff will be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss the concept further.

10. **Announcements**

10.1 Town Events

Holland Marsh Centennial Art Contest Reception

In celebration of 100 years of the Holland Marsh, the Library teamed up with the Town of BWG and the South Simcoe Arts Council to honour the marsh through art. Participants from three age categories were invited to submit their work. Come view the art submissions and discover the winners of the Holland Marsh Centennial Art Contest.

October 16, 2025 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Bradford Public Library (425 Holland St W)

Pumpkin Fest

Come celebrate the start of Fall at this years Pumpkin Fest! Enjoy family friendly events and activities everyone will enjoy. Activities will be free of charge for all participants.

October 18, 2025 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Henderson Memorial Park (3171 9th Line)

10.2 Flag Raisings

PROBUS Club Flag Raising

A flag raising ceremony is scheduled for October 3, 2025, 11:30 a.m. at the Bradford West Gwillimbury Court House and Council Chambers, 57 Holland Street E.

Nigerian Independence Day Flag Raising

A flag raising ceremony is scheduled for October 4, 2025, 2:00 p.m. at the Bradford West Gwillimbury Court House and Council Chambers, 57 Holland Street E.

11. Next Meeting

11.1 Meeting Date

- November 5, 2025

11.2 Agenda Items

Agenda items may be forwarded to the Chair or the Committee Coordinator prior to the next meeting.

12. Adjourn

Resolution DEI-2025- 17

Moved By Rebecca Williams-Reda

Seconded By Afsaneh Sabet

That the meeting is hereby adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

CARRIED

Jennifer Bahinski, Vice Chair