

SHARE MODELS OF RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEES

Harmonious race relations cannot be achieved by a small number of voluntary organizations or a single institution such as a school. Racism is likely to pervade many institutions in a community. There is a much greater likelihood of successful reduction of racism if the problem is attacked directly by many institutions within a community.

A model which has had some success and the potential for more is the City Council supported race relations committee. Committees in Winnipeg, Ottawa, North York, Vancouver and Toronto were brought to the attention of the Committee. The effort and support of mayors, aldermen and other city officials have helped to address community concerns and alleviate community stress. The frequency of racial incidents often precipitated the formation of such committees. Membership on the committees comes from all sections of the community, including city council, the school board, local business and the police.

Need: The areas addressed vary in different cities, but many include work in police and community relations, addressing the need for more recreational facilities, skills training for youth, utilizing government summer employment grants and researching city government and other incidents of systemic discrimination.

Sharing: The Committee commends the efforts of city race relations committees and urges the Canadian Federation of Municipalities to initiate sharing the existing successful models.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Canadian Federation of Municipalities should initiate a sharing of the models of broadly representative race relations committees.

RECOMMENDATION

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