



Diversity Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2025
Douglas Street Recreation Centre

A meeting of the Diversity Advisory Committee of the Town of Truro was held on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at the Douglas Street Recreation Centre.

Present: Councillor A. Graham, J. Andrew, A. Saju, B. Borden, S. Deslauriers, N. Gillis, J R. Hunka, A. Paris, T. Drummund, Chief D. MacNeil, M. Burgess and S. Roe

Regrets: Councillor J. Flemming, L. Whiteland, T. Totten, K. Kittilsen

1) Welcome & Introduction

Councillor A. Graham opened the meeting. Introductions were made; new member T. Drummund and guest Police Chief. D. MacNeil were welcomed.

2) Approval of the Agenda

The following items were added to the agenda:

- **Item 8** – B. Borden requested to speak regarding the African NS Community Strategy Committee.
- **Item 9** – M. Burgess added the Embrace Festival
- **Item 10** – J. Andrews added Accessibility Week

*Note – there were no minutes to be approved at this meeting.

3) Chief MacNeil – Diversity Recruitment

Chief D. MacNeil informed the group that the Truro Police Department has secured a seat at the Atlantic Police Academy for June 2026, which they intend to offer to a candidate from a visible minority group. He noted that previous outreach efforts have seen limited interest and asked Committee members to share any suggestions or contacts that might help connect with individuals or groups who may be interested in this opportunity.

4) CEC Representation

B. Borden reported that the principal at CEC was supportive of having a student join the Committee and is willing to facilitate the approved student leaving school to attend meetings. B. Borden also noted that it would be a good idea to choose a grade 11 student, and that IB students are required to do volunteer hours, which might work well with a DAC appointment.

5) Millbrook Representation

N. Gillis informed the Committee that Heather Stevens from Millbrook First Nations was

interested in joining the Committee but had not yet returned her application. There is a second possible applicant.

6) Committee Appointments

By motion of B. Borden and Saribel Deslauriers it was moved to approve T. Drummond's application to join the Committee. Motion carried.

7) Terms of Reference

N. Gillis will update and circulate the Terms of Reference.

8) African Nova Scotia Community Strategy Committee

B. Borden informed the Committee that he will be discussing the incident involving Brent Bowden with the African Nova Scotian Strategy Committee, noting that it could have implications for the Diversity Advisory Committee. S. Deslauriers reminded the Committee that the matter falls outside its mandate and emphasized the importance of maintaining focus on the Committee's primary objective: identifying and advising on the removal of employment barriers through established recruitment and hiring practices.

9) EMBRACE Festival

M. Burgess noted that there were some conflicts with the original date of September 20th chosen for the EMBRACE Festival. For the time being, both September 20 and 27th will be considered with a final decision to be made by the end of June.

10) Accessibility Awareness Week

J. Andrews informed the Committee that is is Accessibility Awareness Week and that events will be held on May 31st at the Fundy Discovery Center.

He also highlighted concerns about the condition of some town sidewalks, particularly on Willow and Robie Streets, which can be difficult—and at times hazardous—for individuals using mobility scooters or wheelchairs. He is considering recommending that the Public Works Department further investigate these areas.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Diversity Advisory Committee will take place on June 24, 2025, from 2:30-4 at Douglas Street Recreation Center.

Adjournment

On motion of S. Deslaurier and B. Borden, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:05 pm.

J. Flemming
Chair