

## **Sub: MoK: DEI facilitator & Second monument**

The decision to enlist qualified DEI facilitators for discussions surrounding the Second Monument exemplifies a forward-thinking commitment to cultivating a community that not only values but actively promotes equity, diversity, and inclusion. Deputy Mayor Andrea Clarke astutely underscores that this dialogue extends beyond the mere examination of the monument itself, penetrating the very core principles of justice and representation. By bringing in external consultants well-versed in equity, diversity, and inclusion, the municipality is not only recognizing but actively responding to the imperative for specialized guidance in navigating conversations of such complexity.

Clarke's emphasis on public engagement not only underscores the importance of diverse perspectives but also emphasizes the need to create safe and respectful spaces for individuals to share their lived experiences. This inclusivity extends beyond the visible markers of diversity, embracing various facets such as race, gender, sexual orientation, and accessibility. It is a testament to the acknowledgment that true progress requires a multifaceted approach that considers the unique challenges and perspectives of all community members.

Councillor Mike Hinchberger's evolution in perspective, spurred by a genuine recognition of misrepresentation and the dynamics of social media, serves as a poignant reminder of the necessity for nuanced and informed decision-making in our ever-evolving society. His willingness to reevaluate and adapt underscores the importance of continuous learning and growth, reflecting a commitment to fostering an environment where diverse perspectives can shape collective understanding.

The motion's approval signifies a significant stride toward fostering a community that is more inclusive and just. It underscores the municipality's acknowledgment of the crucial role expert facilitation plays not only in guiding discussions but also in formulating policies and procedures that genuinely mirror the diverse needs and aspirations of all residents. This demonstrates a commitment to creating an environment where every voice is heard and valued.

In essence, the true measure of a community's progress is found in its collective commitment to amplifying the voices that have traditionally been overlooked and breaking down barriers to achieve genuine equality and justice. This approval reflects a shared understanding that inclusivity is not just a lofty ideal but a practical necessity for building a stronger, fairer, and more harmonious community.

Sincerely,  
Christina Wahi