



The Regional Municipality of Durham

Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce Agenda

Thursday, April 23, 2026

7:00 PM

Whitby Meeting Room, Main Level
Regional Municipality of Durham, Headquarters
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby

Please note: The Region of Durham continues to hold electronic meetings for Advisory Committees with limited in-person attendance at this time. Members of the public may [view the Committee meeting](#) via live stream. If you wish to register as a delegate regarding an agenda item, you may submit a [delegation request form](#) in advance of the meeting by noon on the day prior to the meeting and you will be provided with the details to delegate electronically or in-person.

1. Traditional Territory Acknowledgement

The Region of Durham exists on lands that the Michi Saagiig Anishinaabeg inhabited for thousands of years prior to European colonization. These lands are the traditional and treaty territories of the Nations covered under the Williams Treaties, including the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, Alderville First Nation, Hiawatha First Nation, Curve Lake First Nation, and the Chippewa Nations of Georgina Island, Beausoleil and Rama.

We honour, recognize, and respect Indigenous Peoples as rights holders and stewards of the lands and waters on which we have the privilege to live. In our efforts towards reconciliation, we continue to build and strengthen relationships with First Nations, as well as the growing Inuit communities and large Métis communities here in Durham. We commit to learning from Indigenous values and knowledge, building opportunities for collaboration, and recognizing that we are all connected.

2. Roll Call

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

4. Adoption of Minutes

A) Minutes of the Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce meeting held on Thursday, March 26, 2026 (Attachment #1)

5. Delegations

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2097

6. Presentations

7. Information Items

A) Together Against Hate Durham Update

8. Discussion Items

A) Subcommittee Updates

9. Other Business

10. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 7:00 PM

11. Adjournment

Notice regarding the collection, use, and disclosure of personal information:

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If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2054.

The Regional Municipality of Durham
Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce Minutes

Thursday, March 26, 2026

A regular meeting of the Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce was held on Thursday, March 26, 2026 in Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 7:03 PM.

PG Case assumed the Chair.

1. Traditional Territory Acknowledgement

Vice-Chair Case read the following land acknowledgement:

The Region of Durham exists on lands that the Michi Saagiig Anishinaabeg inhabited for thousands of years prior to European colonization. These lands are the traditional and treaty territories of the Nations covered under the Williams Treaties, including the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, Alderville First Nation, Hiawatha First Nation, Curve Lake First Nation, and the Chippewa Nations of Georgina Island, Beausoleil and Rama.

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2. Roll Call

Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

* all individuals participated electronically.

Members

Present: PG Case, Industry/Association/Public Institution Representative, Vice-Chair
S. Almeida-Schroen, Community Member
S. Byfield, Community Member
R. Coelho, Community Member
A. Frempong, Community Member
M. Hamel-Nelis, Industry/Association/Public Institution Representative, attended the meeting at 7:08 PM
A. Kong, Industry/Association/Public Institution Representative
J. Koon Nyemb, Community Member, attended the meeting at 7:48 PM
Councillor Lee, Regional Council, left the meeting at 7:55 PM

T. Morris, Industry/Association/Public Institution Representative
J. Munawa, Community Member
K. Smith, Community Member, attended the meeting at 7:09 PM

Also

Present: Councillor Anderson, Regional Council Alternate, attended the meeting at 7:17 PM

Members

Absent: E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer
S. Bookal, Community Member
N. Samuel, Industry/Association/Public Institution Representative,
Chair
Councillor Shahid, Regional Council
J. Williamson, Industry/Association/Public Institution
Representative

Staff Present: A. Hector-Alexander, P. Hines, N. Honarbakhsh, R. Inacio, A. Sharma, and K. Smith

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Lee, Seconded by R. Coelho,
That the minutes of the regular Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce meeting held on Thursday, February 26, 2026, be adopted.

Carried

5. Delegations

There were no delegations.

6. Presentations

There were no presentations.

7. Information Items

There were no information items to consider.

8. Discussion Items

A) Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce Terms of Reference Review

A. Sharma advised that the Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce Terms of Reference is still being reviewed and updated. She advised that staff are

recommending minor changes with regards to updating language, membership composition and referencing the current Durham Region Strategic Plan.

A. Sharma requested the Committee's input on the following two items: updating the scope of activities to include a requirement that Committee members attend two DRART-related events per calendar year and that the composition of DRART be updated to remove one Regional Councillor and the Chief Administration Officer (CAO) so that there is one member of Regional Council and one alternate and that the CAO be included under support services and guests.

Discussion ensued with regards to how member attendance at DRART-related events will be maintained; how non-compliance of attendance will be managed; and how the CAO will be involved in the Committee going forward if they are removed from the membership composition.

A. Sharma stated that the revised Terms of Reference will be updated to reflect the discussion and shared with Committee members for review following the meeting.

B) Update on the Missing Black Boys Documentary Screening and Roundtable Planning Meeting

PG Case advised that DurhamOne hosted a documentary screening on Sunday, March 8, 2026 with 150 to 170 people in attendance, following which, there was an opportunity for discussion. He advised that there was representation from Durham Region, Durham Regional Police Service, Durham Children's Aid Society, politicians from the Town of Ajax, and Juanita Nathan, Pickering-Brooklin MP. He also advised that during the March break, three youth were interviewed to obtain their feedback.

A. Hector-Alexander advised that the next step is the roundtable discussion taking place on April 1, 2026 at the Audley Recreation Centre from 12 pm to 4 pm, with a goal to collaboratively develop an action plan with clear objectives and tangible resources that will strengthen supports and create a referral pathway for community services, parents, caregivers, and families. A. Hector-Alexander further advised that she would provide the event details for Committee members wishing to attend.

In response to a question from a Committee member, PG Case advised that there is a report being prepared with key information to be shared with community members.

C) Correspondence from Durham Regional Police Service Board Chair

A. Hector-Alexander advised that correspondence from the Durham Regional Police Service Board Chair was received and emailed to Committee members. She stated that the Municipality of Clarington endorsed the letter, written by DRART, at their March 23, 2026 Council meeting, which called for the Deputy

Chief to be suspended without pay, for an independent, external investigation into the alleged use of a racial slur, and that Council affirm its commitment to confronting anti-Black racism and to upholding the dignity, safety, and trust of Black residents, recognizing the importance of transparency and accountability within public institutions.

Discussion ensued with regards to the DRPS working group's role in advocating for and training or other initiatives to ensure this type of behaviour is not repeated by any officers or civilians at DRPS; investigating what type of anti-racism training is currently being offered to officers; providing support to those that were at the DRPS Afro-Caribbean Canadian Internal Support Network; preparing a Freedom of Information Request to DRPS on what type of anti-racism training is currently being provided through the organization; whether there are statistics or exit interviews conducted around why Black officers are leaving DRPS; and the legislative requirements for training that police have to undergo through the Community Safety and Policing Act.

D) Subcommittee Updates

1. DRPS Working Group

T. Morris advised that the DRPS working group met on March 9, 2026 and had discussions around the Missing Black Boys documentary. She advised that the Youth in Policing program is hosting a youth forum on July 23, 2026 which will focus on expanding the program and capacity. She also advised that there have been discussions around the Amber Alert criteria and provided a brief overview of the requirements to issue an Amber Alert. She further advised that they are looking into having Detective Sergeant Byron Bacon of the DRPS Hate Crime Unit attend a future DRART meeting to provide a presentation to the Committee.

T. Morris advised that the new DRPS Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Manager will begin attending the subcommittee meetings and has requested an organizational assessment report on the job description for the new manager position. She stated that the investigation on the Deputy Chief is being managed by the DRPS Board and was advised to send any future inquires through the Board. She also advised that there has been discussion around internal support networks available for Black officers and whether that information has been shared with Black officers following the incident with the Deputy Chief. She provided a brief overview of the next steps for the DRPS working group.

N. Honarbakhsh advised that she would provide a copy of the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) public information guideline from Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) on Amber Alerts and missing persons.

N. Honarbakhsh also advised that the Hate Crime Unit Lead, Bryon Bacon, will be providing a presentation at the May 28, 2026 DRART meeting and that the Towards Equity for All: A Systems-Based Assessment of DRPS 2025 Report by Ty Smith will be shared with Committee members.

2. EDI Working Group

A. Frempong advised that the EDI Working Work met on March 12, 2026 and provided new members with an overview of the subcommittee. She advised that there was discussion around the Municipal Symposium taking place on May 2, 2026 and compared the scope and alignment to the 2024 event in order to have tangible results for this years event. She also advised the subcommittee is looking to have quarterly or periodic roundtable meetings to focus on relationship building, information sharing on priorities, challenges and opportunities for collaboration; providing resources and supports with other EDI groups and committees, and will be engaging with the EDI leads to gather feedback on priorities, challenges and interests in the broader Regional engagement.

3. Education Working Group

A. Hector-Alexander advised that the education working group is continuing to plan for the 2026 Municipal symposium scheduled to take place on May 2, 2026 but is having difficulty finding a speaker who is able to speak specifically to online hate. She suggested shifting the main focus to a new topic that incorporates online hate. A. Hector-Alexander requested that Committee members advise of any speakers that may be willing to attend and speak at the symposium.

A. Hector-Alexander further advised that invitations for the event will be shared in the near future and requested that Committee members hold May 2, 2026 in their calendars for the 2026 Municipal symposium.

9. Other Business

A) Together Against Hate Durham

P. Hines advised that the Together Against Hate Durham policy recommendations will be presented to the April 14, 2026 Finance & Administration Committee and subsequently to the April 29, 2026 Regional Council for approval.

P. Hines encouraged Committee members to attend the Finance & Administration Committee meeting for representation and inquired whether any Committee members were interested and if anyone is interested in helping with the presentation they should reach out.

B) Black History Month

P. Hines advised that Black History Month was well received and was an impactful event with PG Case being the emcee for the event. The next events will be Emancipation Day and the Municipal Symposium and Committee members will be provided with future updates on how they can participate.

C) Durham Regional Police Service Community Safety Data Portal

A. Frempong advised the Durham Regional Police Service Community Safety Data Portal is now live and can be filtered by type of crime and location of crime.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce meeting will be held on Thursday, April 23, 2026 at 7:00 PM.

11. Adjournment

Moved by S. Almeida-Schroen, Seconded by A, Kong,
That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM

Respectfully submitted,

PG Case
Vice-Chair, Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce

K. Smith
Committee Clerk