

Attachment #2

Multiculturalism Advisory Committee

Minutes Extract from

September 8, 2021 regarding

Holocaust Remembrance Day

**Attachment 2 – Minutes Extract from the September 8, 2021
Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting
re Holocaust Remembrance Day**

4.1 Holocaust Memorial

Carilyn Cook, Committee Clerk, reminded members of the discussion that took place at the February 17, 2021 meeting regarding Holocaust Remembrance Day, an item brought forward by Lizz Kelly, Community Member. Committee members agreed that further discussion around a recommendation to Council regarding Holocaust Remembrance Day take place at this meeting.

Ms. Kelly presented the following recommendation to the Committee:

**MOVED AND SECONDED
WHEREAS**

- *In 2005, the U.N. General Assembly designated January 27 – the anniversary of the liberation of the largest Nazi concentration and death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau –as International Holocaust Remembrance Day (IHRD). 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of liberation;*
- *The U.N. resolution that created IHRD rejects denial of the Holocaust and condemns discrimination and violence based on religion or ethnicity;*
- *Canada offers refuge and new hope to immigrants, refugees and survivors, some of whom have escaped more recent genocides – and it is a place where people can learn from each other and share cultures;*
- *IHRD has become a symbol of great importance to the broader Jewish community to commemorate and honour the victims of the Nazi era;*
- *International Holocaust Remembrance Day is officially observed by the United Nations, countries including Canada, Italy and Germany, as well as many cities such as Calgary, Ottawa and Montreal;*
- *Antisemitism is on the rise around the world, in Canada, and in Vancouver. Hatred has flourished in the digital age. It is more important than ever that the lessons learned and horrors of the Holocaust remain present in the public consciousness so they are never repeated;*
- *As we reflect upon that dark period in history and remember the atrocities perpetrated during the Holocaust, New Westminister has the opportunity to join with New Westminister’s Jewish community and Canadians from all walks of life in demonstrating our commitment to stand against antisemitism, hate and genocide; and,*
- *By proclaiming January 27th as International Holocaust Remembrance Day, it will be an opportunity to create greater public*

understanding and awareness of this horrific period in history where over 6,000,000 innocent Jewish men, women and children were systematically murdered by the Nazi regime and its collaborators from 1933 to 1945.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT *the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee recommends that Council declare January 27th as International Holocaust Remembrance Day, add it to its official observances calendar, light up the Anvil Centre in yellow lights, and that the City recognize this day with a proclamation.*

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

Councillor Das noted that with the Committee's June 21, 2021 report to Council titled, "Black History Month Recognition and Promotion' it became apparent to Council that, as a city, there is a diversity of recognition that needs to take place and that there should be a list of such which can be updated as needed.