



OARH VICTORIA

Organizing Against Racism and Hate in Greater Victoria

July 11, 2019 OARH Address to Victoria City Council

The Greater Victoria Organizing Against Racism and Hate Committee (OARH) is mandated by the BC Government to address racism and hate in our community. Our membership includes Greater Victoria police forces, school boards, libraries, the Native Friendship Centre, the settlement community, faith-based organizations and a variety of other civil society organizations working with and for citizens of Greater Victoria.

The OARH recognizes the potential negative impact nation wide of new legislation in Quebec that denies segments of their population access to rights and freedoms guaranteed under the Canadian Constitution and the Canadian Charter of Human Rights.

The OARH believes that as the elected representatives of the citizens of Victoria, it is your responsibility to be vigilant in demonstrating your support for our Constitution, the Charter and the BC Human Rights Code that exists, among other things, to:

1. Foster a society in British Columbia in which there are no impediments to full and free participation in the economic, social, political and cultural life of British Columbia;
2. Promote a climate of understanding and mutual respect where all are equal in dignity and rights;
3. Prevent discrimination prohibited by this Code;
4. Identify and eliminate persistent patterns of inequality associated with discrimination prohibited by this Code;

As elected representatives, it is your role to speak out when others move to marginalize segments of the Canadian population by denying their full participation in society.

The OARH Committee cautions you not to allow your silence be interpreted as support. Your role must be to clearly state your opposition to any legislation that is designed to restrict the rights of Canadians. We ask you to support the resolution and the belief that the rights of all Canadians must be protected.

As outlined in your current Strategic Plan, we strongly encourage you to lead with creativity and courage.

Greater Victoria Organizing Against Racism and Hate Committee
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