

Shekoli swakweku, As I come to the end of my position as a voting member with this committee, I am asking that the future work of this committee begin to consider getting more vocal with the advisory function and to be viewed as a vital part of the Municipal Structure. I believe that this committee should be addressing policy change in the forms of more inclusion language, participating in debate on issues facing City Council in areas of Human Rights, Reconciliation, Inclusion, and Equity and creating a more welcoming environment for equity seeking groups just to name a few items. I feel this committee has a role in working with the ARAO Team and assisting with the efforts to make London a more equitable and fair community for all and not just a lucky few. I have been involved in this work for a great number of years and had hoped my participation with this committee would have been part of the decision making process in how Council answers calls from community members that are struggling with societal inequities. My question is: what is the true role of this committee? Is there any authority with this committee to actually suggest and "advise" council in matters of Human Rights, Reconciliation, Inclusion, and Equity? Acknowledging and bringing those that do great community work to the public view is one of the matters that we have been doing annually but I believe that we should be doing more. I would like to see a standard agenda item that addresses current issues in an effort to promote change within this system that we operate. Making it easier and more inviting for the community to come forward and share their vision and action plans to address the issues that nobody wants to mention.

I have been involved with these efforts as an Indigenous community member for almost 40 years and will continue with my efforts regardless of what "table" I am sitting at. I believe that true change is possible and the beginning steps need to be taken by those that are seen as leaders in our community.

Yaw^ko  
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DIACAC