



# A London for Everyone: An Action Plan to Disrupt Islamophobia

Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee Meeting

February 8, 2022



# June 15 Council Direction

- Council gave us 3 distinct directions:
  1. Work with local Muslim community, CDIS and key stakeholders to develop and report back on a plan to end Islamophobia locally.
  2. Seek input from the local Muslim community to determine a means which the City can remember and honour Our London Family
  3. Work with the local Muslim community and report back how the City can highlight and honour their contributions.



# Who was involved?

- In response to Council resolution, an Anti-Islamophobia Working Group was created
- Approximately **80 members** of the diverse Muslim community were engaged and invited to participate
- Approximately **30 community-based and public sector organizations** were also engaged and invited to participate
- **Local media representatives** were invited to participate in separate but parallel process
- There was an overwhelming response and desire to be involved from both groups.



# What did we do?

- Oct 14 - Met with members of the local **London Muslim community**
- Oct 27 – Met with **community-based and public sector organization** representatives
- Nov 8 – Held a **joint session** with both groups
- Nov 24 – Held a separate session for **local media representatives**
- Dec 1 – Met with members of the **London Muslim community** to discuss how to commemorate Our London Family and the contributions of local Muslim community members
- Nov-Dec – Over 20 **one on one conversations** held with community partners and individual Muslim community members
- Jan 20 – Held a **feedback session** to review draft recommendations



# What did we hear?

- The Muslim community is hurt, frightened, angry, frustrated and desperate for all levels of government to stand by their commitments made following the terror attack
- The voice of Muslim youth was overlooked in the aftermath of the terror attack and any initiatives that emerge must include their input
- Islamophobia is often gendered and targeted towards Muslim-identifying women
- Community partners are invested and eager to disrupt Islamophobia within their spaces
- Educational institutions have an increased responsibility to direct resources and attention towards dismantling Islamophobia



# Who are the recommendations for?

- **The Corporation of the City of London:** Many of these recommendations align with the policy recommendations submitted by the National Canadian Council of Muslims in advance of the National Summit on Islamophobia held in July 2021
- **Community based and public sector organizations:** These recommendations acknowledge that community partners also have a responsibility to further their efforts and collaborate with others to dismantle Islamophobia



# What did they recommend?

- Commemoration
- Advocacy, Legislation & Public Policy
- Education & Awareness
- Programs & Services
- Accountability & Implementation
- Internal Policies & Practices



# Accountability & Implementation

- Establish an Anti-Islamophobia Advisory Council/Circle to the Mayor to provide oversight of the implementation of the recommendations
- Establish a Muslim Community Liaison Advisor within the Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Division to work with community partners to implement the recommendations
- The Anti-Islamophobia working group continue to meet on a regular basis to support accountability and implementation at the community level





# Financial Implications

- One time funding of up to \$150K from the Operating Budget Contingency Reserve for a memorial plaza at Hyde Park/South Carriage Rd to be completed by June 2022
- The Muslim Community Liaison Advisor position is proposed to be funded on a temporary basis for a period of up to 2 years within existing budget resources. Long-term funding options for this position would be explored through the development of the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget
- Following an implementation plan, Civic Administration will submit a business case for any additional required funding as part of the 2023 Annual Budget Update or 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget



# What's Next?

- There are number of initiatives derived from the recommendations that are already underway
- Civic Administration now needs to develop an implementation plan that outlines how the applicable recommendations will be actioned
- The Anti-Islamophobia working group needs to continue to meet regularly to discuss progress on implementation activities and accountability