



**GEORGINA**

**THE CORPORATION OF THE  
TOWN OF GEORGINA**  
**Georgina Equity and Diversity Advisory Committee Agenda**

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

7:00 PM

**Pages**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

“The Town of Georgina recognizes and acknowledges that we are on lands originally used and occupied by the First Peoples of the Williams Treaties First Nations and other Indigenous Peoples, and on behalf of the Mayor and Council, we would like to thank them for sharing this land. We would also like to acknowledge the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation as our close neighbour and friend, one with which we strive to build a cooperative and respectful relationship.

We also recognize the unique relationship the Chippewas have with the lands and waters of this territory. They are the water protectors and environmental stewards of these lands and we join them in these responsibilities.”

**2. ROLL CALL**

**3. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**1. Red Shirt Day**

Council for the Town of Georgina proclaims Wednesday, May 28, 2025 as Red Shirt Day, encouraging everyone to support equality of access, opportunity and outcomes for persons with disabilities. Everyone is encouraged to wear a Red Shirt on this day in support of individuals with disabilities and to show our Town is an inclusive community.

**2. Red Dress Day**

Red Dress Day is a day in solidarity and support for people impacted by the violence against Indigenous women, girls and two-spirited peoples in Canada. The hanging red dresses represent the pain and loss felt by families, survivors and communities. It also symbolizes the calling home of the lost spirits. Red Dress Day raises awareness of the hardships faced by Indigenous women, girls and two-spirited peoples and advocates for a safer community.

**3. Good Food Collective Lunch - June 4**

<https://goodfoodcollective.ca/>

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| <b>4.</b>  | <b>INTRODUCTION OF ADDENDUM ITEM(S)</b>  |    |
| <b>5.</b>  | <b>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</b>  |    |
| <b>6.</b>  | <b>DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF</b>  |    |
| <b>7.</b>  | <b>ADOPTION OF MINUTES</b>   |    |
| 1.         | Minutes of the meeting on April 8, 2025  | 4  |
| <b>8.</b>  | <b>SPEAKERS</b>  |    |
| 1.         | DeafBlind Ontario Services<br><br>Erin Thomas, Community Engagement Manager of Central Region at DeafBlind Ontario Services, to speak to the Committee about the organization and DeafBlind Awareness month. |    |
| <b>9.</b>  | <b>DELEGATIONS/ PETITIONS</b>  |    |
| <b>10.</b> | <b>PRESENTATIONS</b>   |    |
| <b>11.</b> | <b>REPORTS</b>   |    |
| 1.         | Memorandum, Proposed Advisory Committee Meeting Format<br><br>Committee to decide on the preferred meeting format based on Council Resolution, C-2025-0107.  | 11 |
| <b>12.</b> | <b>GENERAL INFORMATION ITEMS</b>   |    |
| 1.         | Pride Event Updates<br><br>Grant Peckford, from the Georgina Pride Optimist Club, to provide an update on upcoming Pride events.   |    |
| 2.         | Multi-Year Accessibility Plan Update<br><br>Tim Higgins, Accessibility/AODA Compliance Advisor, to provide a verbal update on the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.   |    |
| 3.         | Pan-African Flag Update<br><br>Patti White, Manager of Recreation Services, to provide an update.  |    |
| 4.         | Council Endorsement of Disposition Item 12.1.e   | 18 |

Please be advised that at its meeting on April 2, 2025, Council endorsed disposition Item No. 12.1.e, regarding the Georgina Equity and Diversity Advisory Committee requesting 'Hate Has No Place Here' stickers be re-printed for distribution.

**RESOLUTION NO. C-2025-0085**

That Town Council receive and endorse the request made by the Georgina Equity and Diversity Advisory Committee (GEDAC) to re-print the 'Hate Has No Place Here' stickers for distribution purposes, utilizing the Committee's budget of \$500.

**13. MOTIONS/ NOTICES OF MOTION**

**14. OTHER BUSINESS**

**15. CLOSED SESSION**

**16. MOTION TO ADJOURN**



**THE CORPORATION OF THE  
TOWN OF GEORGINA**

**GEORGINA**

**Georgina Equity and Diversity Advisory Committee Minutes**

Date: Tuesday, April 8, 2025  
Time: 7:00 PM

Members of  
Committee Present: Margaret Quirk  
Charlene Biggerstaff  
Michael Oyston  
Nancy Liu  
Mona Steitieh  
Alice Tsang

Members of  
Committee Absent: Hanna Gillis

Staff Present: Samantha Naumoski, Committee Services Coordinator  
Kelly Atkinson, Head, Human Resources  
Patti White, Manager of Recreation Services  
Carlie McCormick, Sponsorship and Special Events Supervisor

Others Present: Robert Gaunt, CNIB Foundation  
Patrick Milne, CNIB Foundation  
Robin Konstantopoulos, Director, Autism Unplugged Learning  
Centre

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

“The Town of Georgina recognizes and acknowledges that we are on lands originally used and occupied by the First Peoples of the Williams Treaties First Nations and other Indigenous Peoples, and on behalf of the Mayor and Council, we would like to thank them for sharing this land. We would also like to acknowledge the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation as our close neighbour and friend, one with which we strive to build a cooperative and respectful relationship.

We also recognize the unique relationship the Chippewas have with the lands and waters of this territory. They are the water protectors and environmental stewards of these lands and we join them in these responsibilities.”

Called to order at 7:00 p.m.

## **2. ROLL CALL**

As noted above.

## **3. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **1. April is Autism Awareness Month**

Town Council has proclaimed Wednesday, April 2, 2025 as 'World Autism Day' throughout the Town of Georgina with the theme 'Celebrate the Spectrum' to show support for autistic individuals across Ontario and within our communities, bringing to light the systemic barriers that must be removed to create a more supportive and inclusive Ontario.

## **4. INTRODUCTION OF ADDENDUM ITEM(S)**

None.

## **5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

### **RESOLUTION NO. GEDAC-2025-0019**

Moved By Mona Steitieh  
Seconded By Charlene Biggerstaff

That the April 8, 2025 Agenda be approved as presented.

**Carried**

## **6. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF**

None.

## **7. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

### **1. Minutes of the meeting on March 4, 2025**

**RESOLUTION NO. GEDAC-2025-0020**

Moved By Michael Oyston

Seconded By Alice Tsang

That the Minutes of the March 4, 2025 meeting be adopted as presented.

**Carried**

**8. SPEAKERS**

## 1. Autism Unplugged Learning Centre

Robin Konstantopoulos, Director at Autism Unplugged Learning Centre, spoke to the Committee about the Centre's essential services and Autism Awareness Month. Robin highlighted the Centre's role in providing essential support for individuals with autism. This includes specialized programming aimed at improving social, academic, and life skills. The Learning Centre offers a range of support resources for families and individuals including guidance and information to navigate challenges and inquisitiveness around supporting autism.

Robin concluded by emphasizing the Learning Centre's commitment to supporting the lives of individuals with autism and their families.

**RESOLUTION NO. GEDAC-2025-0021**

Moved By Charlene Biggerstaff

Seconded By Mona Steitieh

That the Committee receive the presentation from Autism Unplugged Learning Centre, for information.

**Carried**

## 2. CNIB Foundation

Speakers from the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB), spoke to the Committee about the Foundation and the Georgina Puppy Development Centre.

The speakers provided an overview of the CNIB (Canadian National Institute for the Blind), including its origins and development. They discussed the organization's mission, which focuses on vision rehabilitation services, reading and literacy programs, and advocacy efforts for Canadians who are blind or have low vision.

They also highlighted the CNIB Guide Dogs program, which addresses the critical shortage of guide dogs for Canadians with sight loss. This program trains guide dogs and provides them to clients at no cost. A key part of this initiative is the Puppy Development Centre located in Georgina where puppies will receive early training. This Centre will play a vital role in raising future guide dogs, ensuring they receive the highest standard of care from the very beginning.

**RESOLUTION NO. GEDAC-2025-0022**

Moved By Charlene Biggerstaff  
Seconded By Alice Tsang

That the Committee receive the presentation from the CNIB Foundation, for information.

**Carried**

**9. DELEGATIONS/ PETITIONS**

None.

**10. PRESENTATIONS**

None.

**11. REPORTS**

None.

**12. GENERAL INFORMATION ITEMS**

**1. Disposition Item - February 26, 2025 Council Meeting**

At the February 26, 2025 Council Meeting, the following motion was passed to refer correspondence to the Georgina Equity and Diversity Advisory Committee for information and discussion.

Item 12.1 g. York Region Food Council's Food Charter outlining collective values and priorities, a guiding document for food-related policies and action to foster healthy communities.

**RESOLUTION NO. C-2025-0053**

Moved By Regional Councillor Davison  
Seconded By Councillor Neeson

That Town Council endorse the York Region Food Council's Food Charter outlining collective values and priorities, a guiding document for food-related policies and action to foster healthy communities, and that the Food Charter be forwarded to the Georgina Equity and Diversity Advisory Committee and the Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee for discussion and information.

**Carried**

**RESOLUTION NO. GEDAC-2025-0023**

Moved By Michael Oyston  
Seconded By Mona Steitieh

That the Committee receive the Disposition Item from the February 26, 2025 Council Meeting, for information.

**Carried**

2. Cultural Event Update

Carlie McCormick, Sponsorship and Special Events Supervisor, provided a verbal update on upcoming Cultural Events.

The Town of Georgina's first Cultural Festival is taking place on Saturday, September 20, 2025, at the ROC Chalet, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The events team is preparing a public call-out for participants, with applications set to launch this month through promotions via the Town's social media channels and website.

Area's for participation include:

- Cultural performances and workshops – groups can share traditional music, dance, or other cultural art forms, with optional interactive workshops for attendees.
- Food stalls – This is an opportunity to showcase and sell traditional foods and beverages in a culturally themed food zone.
- Art exhibits and demonstrations – including both traditional and contemporary works, plus live demos like art, calligraphy, or textile making.
- Games and activities – from traditional sports to culturally significant games that visitors can try out.
- Vendor Village – for the sale of handmade goods, textiles, cultural crafts, and more.



Committee members are encouraged to network this information to assist in facilitating Cultural groups that they know of to participate.

All inquiries can be forwarded to [events@georgina.ca](mailto:events@georgina.ca).

**RESOLUTION NO. GEDAC-2025-0024**

Moved By Charlene Biggerstaff

Seconded By Michael Oyston

That the Committee receive the Cultural Event updates, for information.

**Carried**

**13. MOTIONS/ NOTICES OF MOTION**

None.

**14. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**15. CLOSED SESSION**

None.

**16. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**RESOLUTION NO. GEDAC-2025-0025**

Moved By Michael Oyston

Seconded By Mona Steitieh

That the Georgina Equity and Diversity Advisory Committee Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

**Carried**

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Mayor Margaret Quirk, Chair

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Samantha Naumoski, Committee Services Coordinator



# Interoffice Memorandum

**GEORGINA**

**Clerk's Division**

**To:** Georgina Advisory Committees

**From:** Samantha Naumoski, Committee Services Coordinator

**cc:** Rachel Dillabough, Town Clerk  
Mamata Baykar, Deputy Clerk

**Date:** April 16, 2025

**Re:** **RESOLUTION NO. C-2025-0107**  
Re: Proposed Advisory Committee Meeting Format

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Please be advised that at its meeting held on April 16, 2025, Council considered Report No. LS-2025-0001, regarding the Proposed Advisory Committee Meeting Format (*Attachment No. 1*). Council passed the following Resolution in relation to this report:

**RESOLUTION NO. C-2025-0107**

Moved By Councillor Dale

Seconded By Councillor Neeson

1. That Council receive Report No. LS-2025-0001 prepared by the Clerk's Division, Legislative Services Department, dated April 2, 2025, respecting the Proposed Advisory Committee Meeting Format;
2. That Council express its appreciation to all of the volunteers who continue to dedicate their time participating as Members of the Town's Advisory Committees;
3. That Option 3 be the preferred format for conducting Advisory Committee meetings, being that each Advisory Committee shall determine its preferred meeting format, either Virtual or Structured Hybrid, at the first scheduled meeting of each Council term, and shall remain with this format for the duration of the term, that those Committees that decide to remain virtual may conduct one meeting per year in the hybrid (in person) format upon notifying the Clerk's Division 30 days prior, and that the Appeals Committee meetings shall remain in the virtual format at all times.

**Carried**

Please note that the resolution and comments are taken from the un-adopted draft minutes.

Taking into consideration the above resolution, each advisory Committee, except the Georgina Appeals Committee, are required to decide on the meeting formats to conduct its meetings for the duration of the term, from the following options:

Virtual: Meetings are held from a remote location through electronic means. This method allows the meeting to be conducted through digital platforms or communication tools.

Structured Hybrid: Meetings are held in-person in the Council Chambers. Members will have the opportunity to participate virtually in exceptional circumstances only. Members of the public will have the opportunity to attend the meeting either remotely or in-person. Structured Hybrid Meetings align with the structure of Council Meetings.

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GEORGINA**

**REPORT NO. LS-2025-0001**

**FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF  
COUNCIL**

April 16, 2025

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING FORMAT**

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**1. RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That Council receive Report No. LS-2025-0001 prepared by the Clerk's Division, Legislative Services Department, dated April 2, 2025, respecting the Proposed Advisory Committee Meeting Format;
2. That Council express its appreciation to all of the volunteers who continue to dedicate their time participating as Members of the Town's Advisory Committees;
3. That Council provide direction regarding the preferred format for conducting Advisory Committee meetings, with the following options presented for consideration.

Option 1 - Virtual Meetings;

Option 2 - Structured Hybrid Meetings; or

Option 3 - Each Advisory Committee shall determine its preferred meeting format, either Virtual or Structured Hybrid, at the first scheduled meeting of each Council term, and shall remain with this format for the duration of the term.

**2. PURPOSE:**

Staff are seeking direction from Council to establish the preferred meeting format for Advisory Committees.

**3. BACKGROUND:**

Advisory Committee Meetings went to a fully virtual format at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020.

At the August 14, 2024 Council Meeting, Council considered a resolution from the Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee requesting that it consider a hybrid meeting format for Committees of Council. Accordingly, Council directed staff to investigate and consider the meeting format for Committees of Council and for the Georgina Public Library Board.

As directed by Council, staff have reviewed and considered relevant options for a preferred meeting format for the following Council Appointed Committees:

- Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee
- Georgina Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Georgina Appeals Committee
- Georgina Economic Development Advisory Committee
- Georgina Equity and Diversity Advisory Committee
- Georgina Environmental Advisory Committee
- Georgina Heritage Advisory Committee
- Georgina Safe and Active Transportation Advisory Committee
- Committee of Adjustment

Currently, the Georgina Public Library Board mirrors the format of the advisory committees for its meetings; however, under the *Public Libraries Act*, the Board is authorized to determine the mode of calling and conducting its meetings. Historically, the Georgina Public Library Board has always employed the same meeting format as the other advisory committees.

#### **4. ANALYSIS:**

##### **4.1 Meeting Formats**

Currently, the Town of Georgina has two meeting formats in place for its meetings.

##### **Virtual Meetings**

The Virtual meeting format consists of a meeting held from a remote location by electronic means. This method allows the meeting to be conducted through digital platforms or communication tools, where Committee members, staff, and members of the public, engage remotely via video conferencing. This format allows individuals to interact, share information, and collaborate in real-time, regardless of their physical location, using internet-based technologies to facilitate meetings.

##### **Structured Hybrid Meetings**

The Structured Hybrid meeting format refers to a meeting that combines both in-person and virtual participation. In this format, Committee members and staff attend the Council Chambers in-person for each meeting, while allowing the public to join the meeting either remotely or in-person. Committee members have the opportunity to participate virtually in exceptional circumstances. Council meetings are currently held using the structured hybrid format.

##### **4.2 Options For Conducting Advisory Committee Meetings**

### **Option 1 - Virtual Meetings**

Through Virtual meetings, Committee members gain the ability to access meetings from remote locations, allowing them to volunteer their time to support Georgina's Advisory Committees through flexible means. The continuation of virtual meetings is seamless, as all Advisory Committees have been conducting them since the beginning of the term and are operating efficiently. One (1) staff member is required to successfully operate all necessary applications and effectively manage meetings. IT staff and Staff Liaisons are also available for assistance through virtual participation at remote locations. Virtual meetings are easily accessible and have increased citizen engagement, while also providing environmental benefits such as reduced emissions, as staff, Committee members, and the public no longer need to use transportation to meet at the Civic Centre to participate in-person. The Clerk's Division has also received positive feedback from Committee members, a majority preferring to continue virtual meetings, as they provide added flexibility. Additionally, attending virtually has increased the number of prospective candidates interested in joining the Committees.

### **Option 2 - Structured Hybrid Meetings**

The Structured Hybrid meeting format requires both Committee members and staff to attend in-person at the Council Chambers for each meeting. Committee members may participate virtually under exceptional circumstances. This format aligns with the format of Council meetings, ensuring that if the public attends in-person, the Committee will also be present in the Council Chambers. Implementing Structured Hybrid meetings will necessitate additional staffing to manage both in-person and virtual participation, as well as to oversee the technological setup. IT staff and Staff Liaisons will be required to attend meetings in-person at the Council Chambers to support the execution of these meetings. Given that Advisory Committee meetings occur multiple evenings per week, IT staff will be required to be available on-site during these times and days, as will the various staff members required to ensure the efficient operation of the Structured Hybrid meetings.

### **Option 3 - Each Advisory Committee shall determine its preferred meeting format, either Virtual or Structured Hybrid, at the first scheduled meeting of each Council term, and shall remain with this format for the duration of the term.**

This option provides the most flexibility, as each Advisory Committee has the opportunity to determine its preferred meeting format during the first scheduled meeting of each Council term. At their first meeting, members of each Advisory Committee will vote on their preferred meeting format: Virtual or Structured Hybrid. Once a majority vote has been reached, the chosen meeting format shall remain in effect for the duration of the term. The first scheduled meeting of the Council term will be conducted using the meeting format that was in place during the previous Council term for each respective Advisory Committee.

With regard to the current 2022-2026 Term of Council, Committee members would decide on their preferred meeting format at their next scheduled meeting.

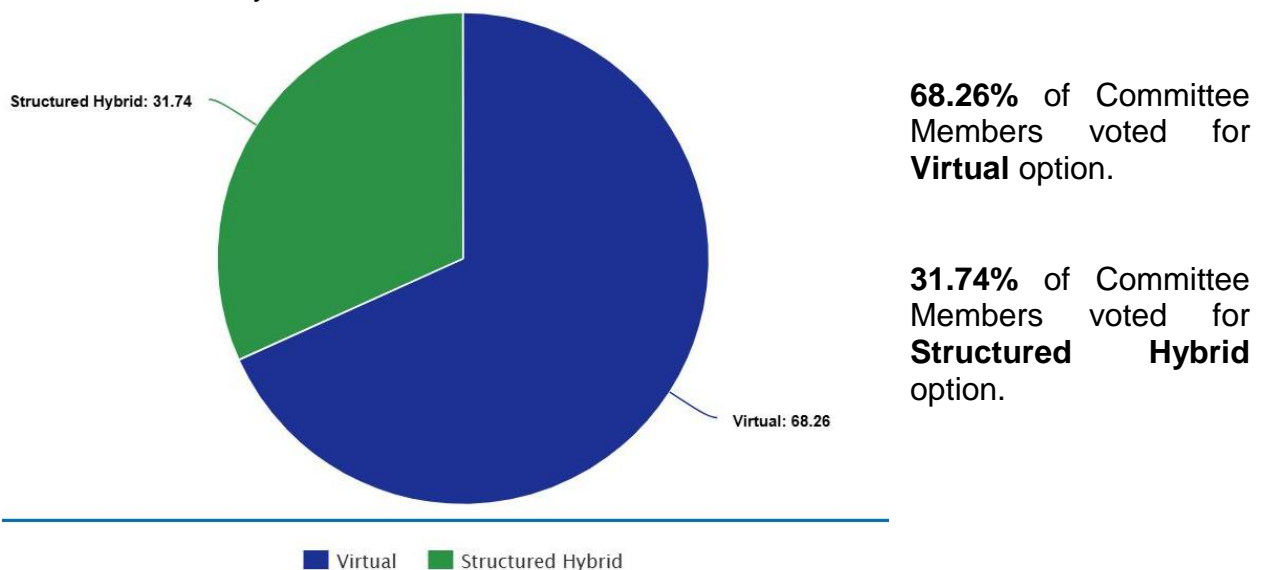
### 4.3 Survey

On February 7, 2025, a survey was emailed to each Advisory Committee seeking input from members on their preferred meeting format for the remainder of the 2022-2026 Term of Council. The options presented included Virtual Meetings and Structured Hybrid Meetings. Committee members were provided with the opportunity to select the meeting format they would prefer to participate in. The following descriptions were provided within the survey:

**Virtual:** Committee Members and Staff would participate in a Meeting from a remote location by electronic means, continuing with the current Committee meeting structure.

**Structured Hybrid:** Committee Members and Staff would be required to attend the Council Chambers in-person for each meeting, while allowing the public to participate virtually or in-person. Members will have the opportunity to participate virtually in exceptional circumstances. Structured Hybrid Meetings align with the structure of Council Meetings.

Overall Survey Results:



## 5. RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

Delivering service excellence

Creating a vibrant, healthy, and safe community for all

## 6. FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY IMPACT:



Budgetary impacts will be dependent on the option chosen by Council. The budgetary impact has been calculated as a range, as the number of staff involved in each type of committee meeting may vary. The approximate per-meeting cost for a virtual committee meeting ranges from \$286.43 to \$492.79. The approximate per-meeting cost for a hybrid meeting ranges from \$583.23 to \$1,649.28.

The total annual budgetary impact will be dependent on the number of meetings scheduled for each committee, which could range from 8 to 20 meetings per year. We have a total of 9 committees (excluding Georgina Public Library Board). The annual budgetary impact for virtual meetings for individual committee ranges from \$2,291.44 to \$9,855.8 and for Hybrid meetings ranges from \$4,665.84 to \$39,582.72. Hybrid meeting costs are higher due to the increased number of staff involved in administering the meeting, as well as the additional time required for technology setup and testing.

**7. PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND NOTICE REQUIREMENTS:**

There are no notice requirements or public consultation necessary in this determination.

**8. CONCLUSION:**

In conclusion, staff are seeking Council's direction on the preferred format for conducting Advisory Committee meetings through consideration of the following options:

Option 1 - Virtual Meetings

Option 2 - Structured Hybrid Meetings

Option 3 - Each Advisory Committee shall determine its preferred meeting format, either Virtual or Structured Hybrid, at the first scheduled meeting of each Council term, and shall continue with this format for the duration of the term.

**APPROVALS**

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Prepared By:    | Samantha Naumoski, Committee Services Coordinator |
| Reviewed By:    | Mamata Baykar, Deputy Clerk                       |
| Reviewed By:    | Rachel Dillabough, Town Clerk                     |
| Recommended By: | Michael Bigioni, Director of Legislative Services |
| Approved By:    | Ryan Cronsberry, CAO                              |



# Interoffice Memorandum

**GEORGINA**

**Clerks Division**

**To:** Georgina Equity and Diversity Advisory Committee

**From:** Samantha Naumoski, Committee Services Coordinator

**cc:** Rachel Dillabough, Town Clerk  
Mamata Baykar, Deputy Clerk

**Date:** May 13, 2025

**Re:** **Council Endorsement of Disposition Item 12.1.e**  
Georgina Equity and Diversity Advisory Committee requesting 'Hate Has No Place Here' stickers be re-printed for distribution

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Please be advised that at its meeting on April 2, 2025, Council endorsed disposition Item No. 12.1.e, regarding the Georgina Equity and Diversity Advisory Committee requesting 'Hate Has No Place Here' stickers be re-printed for distribution.

- Suggestions: add sticker to each Town facility, make stickers easily available to businesses, add logo to library print-making space.

## **RESOLUTION NO. C-2025-0085**

Moved By Councillor Biggerstaff  
Seconded By Councillor Genge

That Town Council receive and endorse the request made by the Georgina Equity and Diversity Advisory Committee (GEDAC) to re-print the 'Hate Has No Place Here' stickers for distribution purposes, utilizing the Committee's budget of \$500.

**Carried**

Please note that the resolution and comments are taken from the un-adopted draft minutes.