



## Halton Equity & Diversity Roundtable receives funding from the Region of Halton

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The Halton Equity & Diversity Roundtable (HEDR) has received funding from the Region of Halton to advance its equity and inclusion work within the region. The funding from the Halton Region Community Investment Fund (HRCIF) covers one year, commenced July 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 and will assist with the Roundtable's staffing, programming and operational costs.

HEDR has championed a community wide initiative in Halton dedicated to developing a community where individuals are valued for their diversity, respected, and empowered to realize their full potential. It is a collaborative of more than 65 organizations, institutions, groups and individuals that is committed to building systemic inclusion and equity in Halton.

"At a time when a series of recent events have led to increased international and local focus on the existing racism and systemic oppression experienced by Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC); it is vital to engage the community with tangible action plans to better understand the context of oppression and unpack historically entrenched social barriers", says Samina Zubairi, HEDR's Coordinator. Through the generous support of Halton Region Community Investment Fund, HEDR will coordinate learning opportunities; engage service providers and Halton residents to create dialogue for advocacy and awareness. This will provide community stakeholders with tangible learnings and skills to leverage and put forward best practices to influence change within their own work and diverse communities.

"The Halton Equity and Diversity Roundtable plays a key role in building inclusive communities in Halton" said Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr. "We are proud to contribute to this important work as part of our ongoing commitment to support the health, safety and well-being of all Halton residents."

The Roundtable officially formed in March 2013 as a result of several community discussions highlighting the need in Halton for more resources, training and support, in order to address the needs of the region's growing diverse population. HEDR's unique presence in the community supports in developing capacity of human service organizations, with a goal of removing systemic barriers that continue to be experienced, through transfer of knowledge, skill and relationship-building.

With funding from the Region Community Investment Fund, HEDR plans to expand its collaborative efforts and intentional work to promote inclusion in Halton through public awareness, advocacy, educational opportunities and resources for local agencies and members of Halton, as it relates to addressing equity and diversity issues in our community.

Over its funding period, HEDR will lead initiatives that include:

- Conducting community consultations with BIPOC residents
- Delivering anti-oppression training certification to support organizational capacity building
- Engaging residents to promote awareness and advocacy of issues impacting the community
- Providing meetings for its membership to network and exchange knowledge
- Host an annual Conference on current issues impacting our communities
- Promote existing organizational self-assessment tools and resources developed by HEDR

In anticipation of facilitating such activities, the Halton Equity & Diversity Roundtable is thankful to the Halton Region for its commitment and investment to building on current efforts that support and promote an inclusive, diverse and equitable community for all.

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