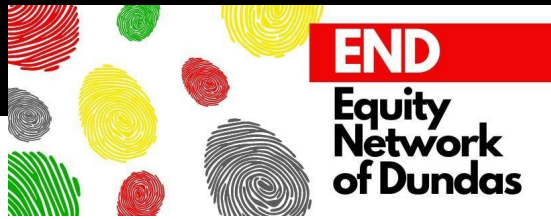


Wednesday , July 14, 2021



4.10 (b)

Attn: **Arlene VanderBeek**
City Councillor – Ward 13
Hamilton City Hall 2nd floor
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario
L8P 4Y5

Sent via email to: arlene.vanderbeek@hamilton.ca
With copy to: clerk@hamilton.ca

**Re: Motion by Ward 3 Councillor N. Nann Voted Down at July 8, 2021
City of Hamilton Emergency and Community Services Committee**

Councillor VanderBeek,

The members of the Equity Network of Dundas (Ward 13) are profoundly disappointed at the failure of the motion raised by Councillor Ninder Nann (Ward 3 City Councillor), asking that the statue of Sir John A. MacDonald be removed from its position of prominence in Gore Park.

Indigenous communities have clearly communicated that the statue of the former Prime Minister causes ongoing harm and trauma to those directly affected by the Residential School System and the Indian Act. It is astonishing that the motion would not have passed with unanimous consent, especially in light of continued unearthing of Indigenous children in recent weeks.

By deferring the removal of MacDonald's likeness from Gore Park, Mayor F. Eisenberger, Councillor J. Farr, Councillor S. Merulla, Councillor C. Collins, Councillor T. Jackson, Councillor E. Pauls, Councillor J.P. Danko, Councillor M. Pearson, Councillor B. Johnson, Councillor L. Ferguson, Councillor A. VanderBeek and Councillor J. Partridge are implying to Indigenous communities that even though MacDonald called First Nations peoples "*savages*" and intended to "*kill the Indian in the child*", the City of Hamilton's councillors do not recognize the ongoing trauma.

Shrouding the statue and waiting for a Q4 review is a condescending gesture and not congruent with the demands outlined in the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#) (2015).

As your constituents, we cannot emphasize enough our displeasure for your lack of empathy at such a pivotal time where you have the power to acknowledge the harm and begin impactful change. We would like to commend Councillor N. Nann, Councillor M. Wilson and Councillor B. Clark for standing on the right side of history.

We request that this letter be read aloud at the next committee meeting.

Thank you,
Equity Network of Dundas



equitynetworkdundas@gmail.com



@EquityNetworkD