

**Special Council  
May 7, 2024  
On-Table Items**

<b>Item Type</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Item Name</b>	<b>Page Number(s)</b>	<b>Reason For On-Table Distribution</b>
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## Memo to Council

Date: May 4, 2024

Subject: Request to attend conference on anti-racism – Motion Served by Councillor Lubik

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### Motion Served

Notice of the following motion was provided at the February 13, 2024, Regular Council meeting:

**THAT council** supports Cllr Lubik to attend **the** conference on “Global Crises – Local Harms: The Role of Canadian Cities in Maintaining Social Cohesion” from 30 – 31 May.

**AND THAT** up to approximately \$2500 be approved for flight and accommodations.

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### Background

The [Strong Cities Network](#) (Strong Cities) and [Foundation for a Path Forward](#), with support from [Canadian Heritage](#) and [Public Safety Canada](#), are delighted to invite you to participate in a conference on “Global Crises – Local Harms: The Role of Canadian Cities in Maintaining Social Cohesion”. The event will take place in downtown Montreal at the [McGill New Residence Hall](#) from 30 – 31 May, 2024 as part of Public Safety Canada’s 2024 ‘Megaweek’ Event Series on Countering Radicalization to Violence.

The conference will convene mayors and other local elected leaders, as well as Canadian municipal practitioners, community leaders, experts in digital safety, researchers and other relevant stakeholders from across Canada to explore the threats and challenges to social cohesion that cities, whether big or small, urban or rural, are experiencing in the face of ongoing global crises, including the Israel-Gaza conflict.

The event will identify steps elected local leaders and municipal governments can take to prevent and mitigate harm to their communities. The conference will focus particular attention on several timely topics, such as:

- Understanding the local hate and extremism threat landscape in Canadian municipalities in times of global crisis;
- The role of Canadian cities in preventing hate and extremism and maintaining social cohesion, including through inclusive leadership;

- Human rights-centered city-led approaches to prevention that balance the obligation to protect freedom of speech and assembly with responsibility for public safety and safeguarding local communities;
- Understanding and supporting the unique prevention needs, concerns and priorities of small, rural and remote Canadian municipalities;
- How cities can mitigate the impact of online harms on offline hate and violence, including through deployment of digital literacy and critical thinking initiatives;
- The role of local government-community partnerships, including in historically marginalized communities, in hate and extremism prevention – the foundation for effective prevention; and
- Case studies and strategies for effective multi-disciplinary prevention partnerships between city officials, community organizations, law enforcement, and other stakeholders.

Participants will also explore how Strong Cities and the Foundation for a Path Forward can support and amplify existing and catalyze new city-led prevention efforts across Canada. This includes working with cities to develop localized strategies and programs to address all forms of hate, including antisemitism and Islamophobia, whether on- or offline, and mitigate its real-world harms and by providing a platform for continuous sharing and learning among Canadian cities that is integrated into and can benefit from the wider Strong Cities Network.

The goal of this request is to bring back learnings and potential partnerships to support anti-racism and community building.

### Requested Timeline

<u>Level</u>	<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Staff Turnaround Time</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urgent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulatory or interjurisdictional requirements</li> <li>• Major and immediate risk and/or financial impact</li> </ul>	< 3 months
<input type="checkbox"/> Time-sensitive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant impact to the community</li> <li>• Significant financial impact</li> </ul>	3-6 months
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-urgent	All other work	< 12 months
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		

### Council Strategic Plan Alignment

This motion aligns with the following Council Strategic Plan Goal(s):

- Strategic Goal 3.3 – Enhance Community Well-Being:
  - Incorporate our values, including diversity, equity, inclusion, Truth and Reconciliation, and climate action, into our policies, plans, and initiatives

## Corporate Project Plan Alignment

This motion is for a learning opportunity; however, it aligns with corporate inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility plans.

## Council Options

The following responses are available for Council consideration:

1. Receive for information.
2. Refer to staff to bring back a report (staff will determine if the nature of the work warrants a project proposal or a staff report, and will include considerations with respect to feasibility, resources, timeline, strategic plan alignment, and legislative analysis).
3. Other.