



The Corporation of the District of Saanich

Report

To: Arts, Culture & Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee
From: David Sparanese; Senior Manager of Public Works
Date: May 10, 2024
Subject: Pride Painted Benches at Saanich Operation Centre

PURPOSE

That the ACCW Committee receive this report for information.

DISCUSSION

The Saanich Operation Centre (SOC) has committed to painting Pride Flag and Trans Flag colours on benches around the SOC to signal their commitment to Saanich's approved Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Strategic Report and Framework.

The department will also undertake dialogue with their work force to both educate staff on the purpose of this project, and to encourage diverse members of the SOC staff team to offer opinions on the overall impact of the project.

In preparing the repainting plan, Engineering consulted the Community Services Division.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None. The repainting of the benches at the SOC is a planned maintenance project. No additional funding is required to complete this action.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

The painting of the benches are symbols of inclusion for both staff and public are mandated in current strategic plans.

The Official Community Plan, Sustainable Saanich, gives direction to staff to create:

- "A safe, inclusive, and healthy community" (5.1 Basic Needs); and
- "Opportunities for residents of all ethnic and cultural backgrounds, income levels, abilities, and genders to participate in community life (5.2 Strengthening Community).

This project is also supported in Saanich's DEI Framework under items:

- Community Focused Strategic Priority #4

“Creating and sustaining a welcoming environment. Complete a facility review and identify changes to support DEI and a welcoming environment, such as gender-diverse washrooms and appropriate signage.” and;

- District Internal Strategic Priority #4
“Listen to the lived experiences of racially and ethnically diverse communities and consider these experiences in District decision-making processes.”

TIMELINE

The discussion with SOC staff describing the purpose of this project will begin in late May with the repainting portion of the project expected to be completed by mid June, 2024.

CONCLUSION

Saanich strives to be a safe and inclusive community for staff, residents, and visitors. The painting of these benches will help create a welcoming environment for traditionally marginalized communities and is integral to promoting the values of the district.