



Decision Note Advice to Minister

Date: December 5, 2018

Cliff #: 34962

Issue: 2019 B.C. Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Awards

Background / Facts:

- The “BC Multicultural Awards” were developed and initiated by the Provincial Multicultural Advisory Council (MAC) in 2008 to honour and recognize British Columbians for outstanding achievements in promoting multiculturalism and addressing racism.
- Seven annual award ceremonies have been held since then, except in 2010, 2014, and 2017 following ministry restructuring and/or BC elections.
- Between 2008 and 2013 the awards were called “Nesika Awards”, using the Chinook trade jargon word for “us”. In 2015 the awards were rebranded as “the BC Multicultural Awards” to more clearly reflect the purpose of the awards.
- Historically, awards have been presented to recipients in five categories: individual, youth, organization, business and provincial government.
- All recipients received an award trophy and non-government recipients received \$5,000 to donate to a not-for-profit organization of their choice to further promote multiculturalism.
- Up to 400 people have attended each past ceremony, including nominees, their invited guests, elected officials from all levels of government and community organizations.
- Past ceremonies have all taken place in Metro Vancouver at different venues including a Burnaby community centre, Science World and the Fairmont Hotel.
- Budgets for the ceremony have ranged from ^{s.13,s.17} including venue costs, entertainment, food, travel for nominees outside of Metro Vancouver, ^{s.13,s.17} prizes and, on occasion, contractors to help administer the award adjudication process.

Analysis:

- The Ministry discussed renewing the awards ceremony with the Multicultural Advisory Council at its October 26th meeting and held follow-up discussions with members via telephone and email in November to get additional feedback on the goals and scope of the ceremony.
 - MAC members are highly supportive of continuing the ceremony
- s.13
- They recommended that the ceremony take place on March 21st, the International Day for the Elimination of Racism, and that the name of the award be renamed the “Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Awards.”
 - They also recommended the ceremony take place in Metro Vancouver to make it more accessible to the majority of nominees and guests, and that it be held at a community-oriented venue rather than at a hotel or conference centre.
 - Finally, the MAC recommended that only the youth recipient be awarded a \$5,000 grant to donate to a non-profit of the recipient’s choosing. They felt that the youth may find this more meaningful than the organizational, business or individual award winners and

s.13

- The Ministry has also consulted with the Lieutenant Governor's office which has indicated that Her Honour Janet Austin (LG) could either be invited to host the awards ceremony at Government House in Victoria s.13
- s.13 or be invited to attend a Metro Vancouver-based event as an honoured guest.
 - If the LG were to attend as an honoured guest, the protocol would be for her to give opening remarks and be present while the awards are given out, but not to hand out the awards directly. The Ministry could seek the participation of the Premier, if available, to distribute the awards and acknowledge the recipients' contributions.
 - The LG's staff have indicated significant interest in pursuing this opportunity with the Ministry as the event aligns with the LG's diversity interests. (See Appendix A for draft invitation letter.)

Suggested approach:

- The Ministry proposes that the event be scheduled from 4-6pm and held at a community-based venue in the Vancouver/Burnaby area (e.g. SFU downtown campus, a Friendship Centre, etc.).
- The Ministry recommends

s.13

- The projected budget for the Awards will be set at s.13,s.17 (See Appendix B for budget breakdown.)
 - Historically, the Ministry has covered travel costs for out-of-town guests. If approved, the Ministry could combine a meeting of the OARH partners to coincide with this event to reduce travel costs for some expected attendees.
- The award nomination process can open in early January and close in mid-February. (See Appendices C and D for timelines and nomination form.)
- The Ministry will set up an external panel of judges, including members of the MAC and past award recipients to assess the nominations and recommend winners.
- The Ministry is also exploring opportunities for the Minister and/or the Parliamentary Secretary to attend other regional annual awards ceremonies such as the Fraser Valley Diversity Awards in Abbotsford, held each Spring, and the provincial diversity awards ceremony organized by the Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies.
- s.13

Recommendation / Next Steps:

• s.13

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• s.13,s.17

Approved/Not Approved



Honourable Lisa Beare

January 8, 2019
Date

Attachment(s):

- A. Draft Letter by the Minister Inviting Her Honour Janet Austin, Lieutenant Governor
- B. Projected Budget
- C. Award Timelines
- D. Draft Nomination Form

Contact: Alison Dudley, A/Executive Director, (236) 818-1150

Appendix A: Draft Letter of Invitation to Invite the Lieutenant Governor

Her Honour the Honourable Janet Austin, OBC and/or His Honour Ashley Chester
Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia
Government House
1401 Rockland Avenue
Victoria, B.C. V8S 4V9

Your Honour,

It is my pleasure and privilege to invite you to attend and grace the 2019 British Columbia Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Awards in Vancouver on March 21st, 2019.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the British Columbia Multiculturalism Act. The awards event will celebrate this anniversary and also mark March 21st, the International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination, observed by the province annually.

Established in February 2008, the British Columbia Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Awards recognize people, organizations and businesses who do exceptional work in bringing our diverse cultures together and reducing barriers to ensure all British Columbians are able to participate fully in the social, economic, cultural and political life of the province.

The Government of British Columbia organizes these annual Awards with advice and support from the Provincial Multicultural Advisory Council, a legislated body that includes experts on multiculturalism and anti-racism issues from across the province.

In 2019, the awards ceremony will recognize the outstanding contributions of British Columbians in promoting multiculturalism and anti-racism in four categories: youth, individual, not-for-profit organizations, and businesses. The award nominations will open in early January and close in mid-February, 2019. An independent panel of judges will assess all the nominations and select four recipients in four categories.

Recipients of the awards will receive a trophy and certification. Additionally, the recipient in youth category will receive a cheque for \$5,000 to be donated to a not-for-profit organization of the recipient's choice to further promote multiculturalism in B.C.

Approximately 250 invitees will be invited to attend the event, including elected officials, nominees and their guests and community organizations and business representatives.

Event Details:

Date: March 21st 2019

Time: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Venue: TBC (Vancouver)

I would be grateful if Your Honour could kindly present the opening remarks at this event to recognize the multicultural and antiracism contributions of British Columbians.

Yours truly,

Lisa Beare

Appendix B: Proposed Budget

Item	Projected Costs
1. Event Venue and Catering (for 250)	s.13,s.17
2. Trophies for winners and certificates for all nominees	
3. Cheque for the Youth Award recipient to be donated to the charity of his/her choice to further promote multiculturalism	
4. Travel and accommodation for nominees outside of Metro Vancouver	
5. Performers & miscellaneous Items	
Total	

Appendix C: Award Timelines

- **December 2019:** Develop event plan with GCPE
- **January 7, 2019:** Nominations open
 - Nomination form to be posted on Ministry website
 - Opportunity for Minister's Office to announce awards and email link to nomination form to stakeholders
- **Mid-January, 2019:** Confirm panel of judges
- **February 15, 2019:** Nominations close
- **February 18 – March 1, 2019:** Judges determine award winners
- **March 4, 2019:** Invitations sent to awards ceremony by Minister's Office
- **March 21, 2019:** Award winners announced at the awards ceremony



2019 British Columbia Multiculturalism and Anti-racism Awards NOMINATION FORM (Online Nominations Only)

Nominations Close February 15, 2019 5:00 PM

The British Columbia Multiculturalism and Anti-racism Awards honour exceptional individuals, organizations and businesses that promote multiculturalism and address racism.

Nomination categories and eligibility requirements:

- ☐ **Individual:** Any living individual, over the age of 30, whose main residence is in British Columbia.
- ☐ **Youth:** Any living youth between the ages of 15-30 whose main residence is in British Columbia.
- ☐ **Business:** Any business registered in British Columbia, or a British Columbia office or branch of a national or international business. The nomination may be for the work of the business overall, or for a specific initiative undertaken to improve respect and dignity between diverse cultures within the operations of the business.
- ☐ **Organization:** Any organization, operating for a primary purpose other than financial profit, with an office in British Columbia. The nomination may be for the work of the organization overall, or for a specific initiative undertaken to improve respect and dignity between diverse cultures within the community the organization serves.

Nominee Information	Nominator Information
Name	Name
Address	Address
Phone	Phone
Email	Email

For nominees in the Individual, Youth, Business and Organization categories please answer the following:

1. How has the nominee contributed to the promotion of multiculturalism and/or antiracism in British Columbia?
(Maximum 500 words)

For Youth category (additional question):

2. How will the \$5,000 be used if the nominee is chosen as the recipient?
(Maximum 200 words)

(The nominees are expected to identify a not-for-profit organization of their choice to receive the award money. For more details refer to the Terms and Conditions.)

Please note: The nominee/nominator may be contacted for additional information, if required.

For more information or enquiries, please email multiculturalism@gov.bc.ca

Terms and Conditions

Judging:

Neither the Province of British Columbia Employees nor elected representatives will have involvement in, or influence over, the selection of nominees or recipients. An independent selection panel with expertise in multiculturalism and anti-racism will follow assessment guidelines to evaluate all the nominees. The process of evaluating nominees and selecting recipients is at the discretion of the independent selection panel. The selection panel has the option of not making an award in all categories. In reviewing the nominations, the judges will consider the contributions and achievements in regards to:

- *Raising awareness of diversity, multiculturalism and anti-racism issues;*
- *Promoting respect and inclusion and bringing diverse cultures together and addressing racism;*
- *Creating a welcoming environment; and*
- *The use of the award money to further advance multiculturalism in British Columbia (Youth category).*

Nominees and award winners:

Award nominees in all four categories will be honoured with a certificate. One nominee in each category will be selected as a winner by the panel of judges and will receive a trophy. In addition, the recipient of the youth category will be awarded with \$5000 to be donated to a not-for-profit organization of their choice to further advance multiculturalism and anti-racism objectives in BC. Award money is not intended for individual gain. The selected organization must be a registered non-profit society or charity and must be active in British Columbia.

A nominee cannot be nominated in more than one category in any one year. All nominees and their nominators agree that the applicant information may be used for publicity purposes. Nominees agree to be photographed for publicity purposes.

Nominee's Signature

Nominator's Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

By signing, the nominee and nominator agree to the terms and conditions.

For youth under the age of 19 that are nominating or being nominated, the signature of a parent or guardian is required.