
From: Brouwer, Andrew
Sent: February-25-14 12:33 PM
To: KEN SISLER
Cc: Moor, Linda
Subject: RE: Deputation

Hi Ken,

Thanks for your information.

Andrew

From: KEN SISLER
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 12:32 PM
To: Brouwer, Andrew
Subject: Re: Deputation

Dear Director of Legislative Services/Town Clerk:

I'm a member of the Inclusivity Advisory Committee for The Town of Newmarket. I have been asked to give a deputation about the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination which takes place annually on March 21. I have been told I will give my deputation on Monday, March 17/2014 at the Committee of the Whole meeting which starts at 1:30 p.m..

Here is a copy of my deputation.

Yours truly,
Ken Sisler

Newmarket, Ontario

Good afternoon, everyone:

My name is Ken Sisler and I'm a member of the Inclusivity Advisory Committee for The Town of Newmarket. I have been asked to speak about the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination which takes place every year in many countries. This day remembers when 69 people were shot and killed by police in Sharpeville, South Africa for peacefully protesting South Africa's apartheid laws. The Town of Newmarket permanently recognizes this day.

There are many forms of discrimination and I wanted to focus my comments about discrimination against women. Did you know it was not until 1960 when every woman in Canada was allowed to vote? This was the year Aboriginal women were finally allowed to vote in Canada.

I'm 59 years old and I have seen many changes how women are viewed in society. Today, girls and women have more access to participating in sports. I think of women's hockey and women's soccer as good examples.

There is more excess for women's medical care for women's health issues.

Growing up, I remember some of the songs were sexist such as "Stand By Your Man" and "I Will Follow Him".

When I was a child, generally the only women who worked were women whose husbands had died or women who were divorced. This is no longer true.

When I was in grade one or two, the teacher asked us what do you want to be when you grow up? All of the girls said one of the following choices-a teacher, a nurse or a secretary. We talked about this episode in high school. Now, women can do anything they want as far as an occupation.

I believe it is just as important for a woman to receive a good education as it is for a man. However, there are still many places in the world where women are discouraged from getting a good education.

I also believe that being a stay-at-home mom is the most important job there is. A woman once told me she worked before she was married and stayed home from work for a few years after she had children. When the children were getting bigger, she decided to go back to work again. During this time she was a stay at home mom, several people made negative comments to her that she should be working outside the home. Stay at home moms should never be looked down upon in society.

I think it is more difficult for a woman to be a politician than a man. When a female politician runs into problems, sometimes sexist comments come out. This rarely happens when a male politician has problems.

One excellent example of a female politician was Shirley Chisolm. She was the first African-American woman to be elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1968. She was a Democrat from New York City. She was the first woman ever to run for the Democratic nomination for President of the United States in 1972. She was also the first African-American, man or woman, to seek the nomination for President of the United States in either the Republican or Democratic parties. She also had a speaking disability. She once said about her political career that she had more prejudice given to her because she was a woman than she ever did for being black.

One area that we can do better as a society is to elect more women to public office. There are simply not enough female politicians, though women make up 50% of the population. I don't know why this is-a woman could answer this question better than I could. It may be because the raising of children seems to fall upon the woman and I don't know why that is either.

I know many well educated women with successful careers who know politics well. Here in Ontario, we have municipal elections this year and we will probably have a provincial election this year and maybe a federal election next year. I would like to invite women who are present here today or are watching by video streaming to seriously consider running for public office. I know some of you have already made this decision to seek public office.

I would like to thank The Town of Newmarket for your ongoing support you have given us as our terms for the Inclusivity Advisory Committee will be expiring this year and a new Inclusivity Advisory Committee will be chosen in 2015.