

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategic Framework

Year Two

Purpose: Year Two of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion strategic framework builds on the accomplishments of the year one. Year one established foundation on which year two builds to ensure a shared direction and commitment for DEI across the organization so we can work together to respect and value our diverse workforce to build a more inclusive and welcoming library.

This framework comprises of three key goals and identifies the priorities and actions OPL will undertake in 2024. It also outlines the key roles and responsibilities and how we track and measure success.

Goals:

1. **Workforce Diversity** – recruit and retain diverse and qualified staff to increase diversity of thinking and perspectives.
2. **Workplace Inclusion** – foster a culture that encourages collaboration, flexibility and equity to enable all employees to contribute to their full potential.
3. **Sustainability and accountability** – identify and breakdown systemic barriers to full inclusion by embedding diversity and inclusion in policies and practices and equipping leaders with the ability to use inclusive behaviours to successfully manage diverse teams and be accountable for the results.

Workforce Diversity – recruit and retain diverse and qualified staff to increase diversity of thinking and perspectives.

Actions	Accountability	By When	Measure
Complete a comprehensive compensation review.	HR/CEO	Q2	Completion and validation of current compensation structure.
Introduce a mentorship program to support potential leaders, ensuring the process includes a focus on advancement of under-represented groups.	HR	Q1	Success rating from participants in the mentorship program
Apply inclusion lens in review of current benefit plans	HR/ CEO	Q3	% of increase in use of benefits

Workplace Inclusion – foster a culture that encourages collaboration, flexibility and equity to enable all employees to contribute to their full potential.

Actions	Accountability	By When	Measure
DEI Employee resource group to create and implement an action plan to increase opportunities for learning and engagement on DEI topic for all staff.	DEI ERG	Q2	# of DEI ERG Interactions with staff (e.g., Staff meeting presentations, training)
Define Inclusive leadership behaviours and set and communicate expectations to leaders as part of their 2024 key performance goals.	EMT/ Leaders	Q2	% of KPI goals successfully completed.

Sustainability and accountability – identify and breakdown systemic barriers to full inclusion by embedding diversity and inclusion in policies and practices and equipping leaders with the ability to use inclusive behaviours to successfully manage diverse teams and be accountable for the results.

Actions	Accountability	By When	Measure
Review policies according to review schedule with an inclusion lens to pinpoint and remove systemic barriers to inclusion.	EMT	Q4	100% of reviewed policies are evaluated using an inclusion lens. Total percentage of policies reviewed.
Ensure all employee’s annual key performance indicators are reviewed and adjusted to reflect an inclusion lens.	All	Q2	
Develop a 360-review process for leaders and ensure that questions are included that focus on the meeting of DEI related expectations.	HR	Q4	% of successful or above 360 ratings

Roles and Responsibilities:

All employees have the responsibility to maintain an environment that is safe, respectful and productive. Everyone has the right to be treated fairly within the workplace in an environment that recognises and accepts diversity.

We can all contribute by participating in workplace diversity and inclusion activities and opportunities and complying with all anti-discrimination and workplace diversity legislation.

Leaders can contribute by displaying a positive commitment to workplace diversity and inclusion, being role models, fostering an inclusive and safe spaces, dealing quickly and effectively with inappropriate behaviour and participating in diversity training and encouraging team members to attend.

The success of the framework is dependent upon the support of everyone in the organization. Everyone has a responsibility for contributing to a culture which supports and values diversity and inclusion.

- Additional Evaluation methods:
- Diversity Survey result update
- Tracking of staff composition
- Staff Focus groups / Employee Resource Group feedback.

Definitions:

Based on the Town of Oakville's Draft Multi-Year IDEA plan.

Diversity

Diversity is about the individual. It is about the variety of unique dimensions, qualities, and characteristics we all possess, and the mix that occurs in any group of people. Race, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, economic status, physical abilities, life experiences, and other perspectives can make up individual diversity. Diversity is a fact, and inclusion is a choice.

Equity

Equity means recognizing that we do not all start from the same place and circumstance. Equity provides resources and opportunities that are allocated based on individual needs that vary. This creates an environment where each person has the opportunity to achieve the same outcome.

Inclusion

Inclusion is creating a culture that embraces, respects, accepts, and values diversity. It is an intentional and equitable effort to meet individual needs so everyone feels valued, respected, and able to contribute to their fullest potential.

Appendix A