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Commit to adding diversity

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There is no reason to grumble just because two white men were appointed to Calgary's police commission. There is absolutely no suggestion that human resources consultant Denis Painchaud and lawyer David Younggren are not qualified for the job. And this is, after all, about qualifications, not optics.

That said, aldermen Joe Ceci and Diane Colley-Urquhart are right that the city needs to reach out to minority communities, to let them know that such positions are available and that they are most welcome to apply.

Greater diversity on civic boards is a tremendous asset, but it does not mean merit should go by the wayside, either.

The city must find a way to encourage minority applicants to come forward and then hire them fair and square because they are qualified, not because of their ethnicity or race. Otherwise, that is as racist as deliberately excluding them and hiring whites only.

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