

**PROCLAMATION REQUEST – PRIDE WEEK**

**Recommendation**

The City Clerk recommends:

- 1) That the week of June 12-18, 2006 be proclaimed PRIDE Week; and
- 2) That the proclamation be posted on the City's website, published on the City Page space permitting and that staff issue a news release.

**Economic Impact**

None

**Purpose**

To respond to a request received from the President, PFLAG Canada, York Region, dated April 20, 2006.

**Background - Analysis and Options**

A request has been received from the President, PFLAG Canada, York Region, to proclaim June 12-18, 2006 as PRIDE Week (Attachment #1).

The proclamation request meets the requirements of the City's Proclamation Policy: *"That upon request, the City of Vaughan issue proclamations for events, campaigns or other similar matters: which are promoted by any organization that is a registered charity pursuant to Section 248 of the Income Tax Act"*.

PFLAG provides support and information about sexual orientation and gender and facilitates a victim support group as well as hosting an informational web site.

**Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007**

This report is consistent with the priorities set forth in Vaughan Vision 2007, particularly 'A-1, "Pursue Excellence in the Delivery of Core Services" and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

**Conclusion**

It is being recommended that June 12-18, 2006 be proclaimed PRIDE Week, that the proclamation be posted on the City's website, published on the City Page, space permitting, and that staff issue a news release.

**Attachments**

Attachment #1 – Letter from the Director, PFLAG Canada – York Region/Director, PFLAG Canada

**Report prepared by:**

John D. Leach

Respectfully submitted,

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John D. Leach,  
City Clerk

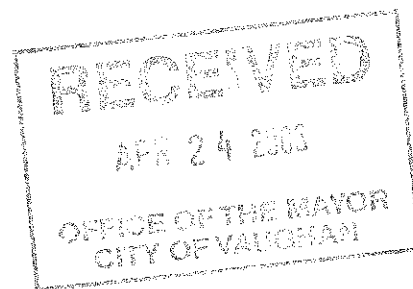
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Janice Atwood-Petkovski,  
Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services

**PFLAG CANADA**  
  
**York Region**

April 20, 2006

Mayor Michael Di Biase & Council  
 City of Vaughan  
 2141 Major Mackenzie Drive  
 Vaughan, ON L6A 1T1



**Re: York Region PRIDE Week 2006 ~ June 12 through 18**

RECEIVED

Dear Mayor Di Biase and Council,

APR 27 2006

I am writing to request Proclamation of *Pride Week* in Vaughan, June 12 through 18, 2006.

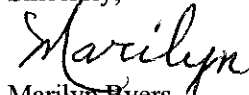
CLERK'S DEPT.

PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transexual, transgendered, two-spirit, intersex, queer, and questioning persons, their families and friends. We provide support and information about sexual orientation and gender identity at regular monthly meetings where all are welcome. We also make speakers available for community groups and schools.

As you may be aware, April marks the mid-point of PFLAG Canada-York Region's special project: "*Stop Hate Crimes*". In cooperation with York Regional Police and with funding from Ministry of the Attorney General, Ontario Victim Services Secretariat, we launched a Regional billboard and bus shelter ad campaign to spread the message that "*someone you know and love is gay*" and "*being gay is not a crime, bashing is*". Along with the billboard campaign, we are facilitating a victim support group; making posters and brochures available to community groups and schools throughout the Region; and hosting an informational web site. Your Proclamation of Pride Week again this June would be a fitting way to mark the end of this important awareness-raising campaign.

The Proclamation of Pride Week is a valued acknowledgment of the lives and contributions of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. This year marks the sixth annual celebration of Pride Week in York Region and we look forward to your positive response regarding the continuation of this important tradition in Vaughan.

Sincerely,



Marilyn Byers  
 President, PFLAG Canada-York Region  
 Director, PFLAG Canada

Enclosures: *Stop Hate Crimes* brochure  
 Suggested Proclamation Wording

*PFLAG York Region is a non-profit charitable organization. Charitable # 86159-2244-RR0001*

**Suggested wording for:**

**PRIDE WEEK PROCLAMATION  
June 12 through 18, 2006**

WHEREAS, \_\_\_\_\_ is a community where diversity is recognized and celebrated; and

WHEREAS, the Town/City continues to lead with ideals of human rights for all individuals, couples and families; and

WHEREAS, our community continues to provide special attention and focus on the needs of all of our youth, that we may instill in them a sense of pride and quality of life by adhering to a zero tolerance of discrimination and hatred, which offers them a safer and greater future; and

WHEREAS, the social and cultural heritage of our Town/City has been enriched by the contributions of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of \_\_\_\_\_ does hereby recognize and salute Pride Week in York Region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council does hereby proclaim June 12 - 18, 2006 as "Pride Week" in \_\_\_\_\_.

DATED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2006.

## Support Group

Our 2006 Support Group will meet  
in Markham from 7:00 to 8:30 P.M.  
on the following Wednesdays:  
Jan 25, Feb 8, 22, Mar 8, 22,  
Apr 5, 26, May 10, 31, Jun 14, 28

PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL FOR LOCATION  
AND OTHER DETAILS

**PFLAG**  **CANADA**  
York Region

**1-866-440-4415**  
**info@pflagyork.ca**  
**www.pflagyork.ca**

### Other Resources

Lesbian Gay Bi Trans Youth Line:  
1-800-268-YOUTH

Gay Women's Support Group:  
1-888-780-0724 (ex 18)

York Region Crisis Line:  
310-COPE (2673)

Kids Help Phone:  
1-800-668-6868

### To Report a Crime

Emergency 911  
Non-emergency 1-866-8-POLICE  
York Regional Police  
Diversity & Cultural Resources Bureau  
905-895-1221  
Extension 7189 or 7723

Victim?  
Survivor?  
Being gay is  
not a crime.

Bashing is.

## Support Group

**PFLAG**  **CANADA**  
York Region

## Hate Crimes & Assault

Name Calling and Verbal Harrassment often precede an assault. If you respond to this, use strong, firm language. Try not to use insults.

If you feel threatened or unsafe, trust your instincts, leave the situation, cross the street, change direction, or go to a place where there are other people

Make noise, scream or blow a whistle to attract attention and assistance. Yelling "Fire" often produces more of a response than yelling "Help".

If all attempts to de-escalate or escape the situation have failed, use your knowledge, strength and anger to defend yourself.

Get the licence plate number and description of any vehicle whose occupants are threatening you or others.

### **Bashing is a Crime**

Been bashed, threatened or verbally harassed as a gay, lesbian, trans, bi or queer person?

#### **Report it !**

Emergency Call 911  
Non-emergency 1-866-8POLICE  
York Region Police



*Funding for this Project is provided by the Government of Ontario, Ministry of the Attorney General, Ontario Victim Services Secretariat Community Projects Grant Program*

The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the Government of Ontario

## Are You in an Abusive Relationship?

Abuse and battering are words that describe a pattern of behaviours used to intimidate, isolate, dominate and maintain power and control over someone.

Abuse can take many forms and can be physical, emotional, verbal, sexual, spiritual and/or financial.

If you think you are being abused, remember, you are not alone. Trust your feelings.

### **Examples of Abusive Behaviours**

Your partner or someone in your life.....

- ▼ tells you they love & support you, but constantly puts you down
- ▼ keeps you from seeing your friends or family
- ▼ threatens to 'out' you or have you deported
- ▼ says you are 'confused' because of your sexual identity
- ▼ denies or makes fun of your gender identity
- ▼ insults your racial, ethnic, religious and/or class background
- ▼ is extremely jealous and possessive, accuses you of cheating
- ▼ threatens, slaps, shoves, punches or restrains you against your will
- ▼ forces you to drink or take drugs
- ▼ forces you to have sex or unprotected sex, sexually assaults you
- ▼ destroys your personal belongings or hurts your pet
- ▼ doesn't respect your boundaries
- ▼ keeps promising to change but the abuse happens again