

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MAY 12, 2009

PROCLAMATION REQUEST – PRIDE WEEK JUNE 7th – 14th 2009

Recommendation

The City Clerk recommends:

- 1) That the week of June 7th – 14th, 2009 be proclaimed “Pride Week”;
- 2) That the “Rainbow” flag be raised at the City of Vaughan Civic Centre during “Pride Week” for a period no longer than one week in accordance with the Flag Raising/Half Masting Policy; and
- 3) That the proclamation be posted on the City’s website and published on the City Page, space permitting.

Economic Impact

N/A

Communications Plan

The Corporate Communications Department posts proclamations issued by the City on the City’s website under “Events – Proclamations”. Publishing proclamations on the City Page depends on space availability.

Purpose

To respond to the request received from the Executive Director, Addiction Services for York Region and the Coordinator, York Region LGBT Community Outreach Project on behalf of the York Pride Fest Committee, dated March 26, 2009.

Background - Analysis and Options

A request has been received from the Executive Director, Addiction Services for York Region, and the Coordinator, York Region LGBT Community Outreach Project on behalf of the York Pride Fest Committee, to proclaim June 7th - June 14th, 2009, as “Pride Week” (Attachment #1). In addition, this year, to increase awareness, it is one of their goals to organize the flying of the Rainbow flag across York Region during “Pride Week”.

The proclamation request meets the City’s Proclamation Policy, as follows:

“That upon request, the City of Vaughan issue Proclamations for events, campaigns or other similar matters:

- (i) which are promoted by any organization that is a registered charity pursuant to Section 248 of the Income Tax Act”

Addiction Services for York Region is a Registered Charity. The City of Vaughan has issued this proclamation in the past.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Regional Implications

This proclamation will bring awareness of differences and protection of equality within the Region.

Conclusion

Staff is recommending that June 7th – 14th, 2009 be proclaimed as "Pride Week", that the Rainbow flag be raised at the City of Vaughan Civic Centre during "Pride Week" for a period no longer than one week in accordance with the Flag Raising/Half Masting Policy; and that the proclamation be posted on the City's website and published on the City Page, space permitting.

Attachments

Attachment #1 – Correspondence from the Executive Director, Addiction Services for York Region and the Coordinator, York Region LGBT Community Outreach Project on behalf of the York Pride Fest Committee, dated March 26, 2009

Report prepared by:

Connie Bonsignore, Admin Assistant

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey A. Abrams
City Clerk

March 26th, 2009

Mr. Jeffrey A. Abrams, City Clerk,
City Of Vaughan,
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive,
Vaughan, Ontario L6A 1T1

APR 08 2009
CITY OF VAUGHAN
CLERKS DEPARTMENT

RE: PROCLAMATION OF YORK REGION PRIDE WEEK, JUNE 7th THROUGH 14th, 2009

Dear Mr. Abrams,

As you know, York Region is one of the fastest growing and diverse regions in Canada and provides some of the most wonderful opportunities for community leaders to participate in the celebration of differences and protection of equality within their constituencies.

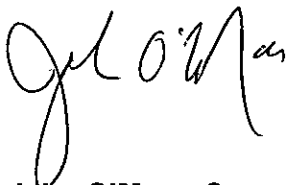
The *York Pride Fest Committee* is a group of volunteer leaders who have assembled to organize York Region's Pride Week celebration for 2009. The members represent a strong LGBT-Straight alliance of York Region service providers and community members dedicated to the creation and growth of **YORK PRIDE FEST** as one of the largest cultural events in York Region.

On behalf of the *York Pride Fest Committee*, we are writing to request participation and leadership from the City Of Vaughan through the Proclamation of Pride Week in Vaughan, June 7th through June 14th, 2009. Your proclamation would be a valued acknowledgement of the lives and contributions of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities living in York Region.

Additionally, to increase awareness, this year it is one of our goals to organize the flying of the Rainbow Flag across the region during Pride Week. We would therefore be honoured if you would also consider participation in this initiative and, if required, we would be delighted to provide a flag of a size to meet your preference.

This year marks the ninth 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. We thank you for your consideration of our request and look forward to welcoming you to some of the exciting activities happening throughout York Region during Pride Week.

Sincerely,



John O'Mara, Committee Co-Chair
Executive Director,
Addiction Services For York Region



Barb Urman, Committee Co-Chair
Coordinator, York Region LGBT Community
Outreach Project

THE YORK REGION LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECT

In 2005, the Ontario Trillium Foundation agreed to fund the York Region Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Community Outreach Project. The Project, which is a co-partnership between Addiction Services York Region and Family Services York Region, is a four-year pilot project. The Project has specific funding to be distributed to agencies that have completed training and wish to begin LGBT-specific programs. Understanding the importance of policy setting, as well as developing awareness and sensitivity at the governance, management and front-line level will lay the groundwork for systematic change and setting an agenda that includes LGBT health and awareness.

The work is supported by an Advisory Committee, which includes the following agencies:

- Addiction Services of York Region
- AIDS Committee of York Region
- Canadian Cancer Society
- Family Services York Region
- Gay and Lesbian Athlete's Association
- Girls Inc.
- Krasman Centre
- PFLAG York Region
- Sandgate Woman's Shelter
- Southlake Regional Health Centre
- Transitional and Supportive Housing Services of York Region
- Women's Centre Of York Region
- Women's Support Network
- Yellow Brick House
- York Central Hospital
- York Region Abuse Program (YRAP)
- York Region Children's Aid Society
- York Support Services Network
- York Regional Police

The Committee meets six times over the course of the year and oversees the Trillium work plan. The aim of the Committee is to take a systematic and coordinated approach to eliminate discrimination and oppression on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

The following is taken from the Committee's Terms of Reference (ratified January 26, 2006)

Mission

To develop and implement collaboratively designed training and education programs to support a comprehensive culturally appropriate and quality service delivery system to meet the needs of LGBT persons and their families in York Region.

Principles

Our aim is to take a systematic and coordinated approach to eliminate discrimination and oppression on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity within the human services sectors in York Region, by supporting service sectors to increase their resources/capacity in the provision of anti-oppression services in York Region.

Goals

1. To evolve the Advisory Committee into an ongoing sustainable community coordinating committee
2. To support the coordinator in identifying alternative sources of funding
3. To ensure that the Project's work plan is adhered to
4. To provide systemic links that are necessary to ensure the success of the Trillium Project work plan
5. To support service sectors to increase their resources/capacity.

Membership

1. All members must be committed to the principles, beliefs and visions of the Project



2. Original stakeholders as identified in the Trillium proposal
3. Members of the LGBT community (who represent a constituency)
4. Other stakeholders as identified by the Coordinator and/or Committee
5. Committee members must be committed to regular attendance

Accountability (i.e. decision making)

1. The committee is an advisory committee that will meet 6 times per year to consult, monitor and evaluate the Trillium work plan
2. Commitment to transparency in decision making with regard to the work plan
3. Commitment to consensual decision making with regard to the work plan
4. Where consensus cannot be achieved, The Project's sponsors (ASYR / FSyr) reserve the right to make the decision.

The community Outreach Project is now in its final year. Beginning in the late Fall of 2006, the Project began to offer education and support to human service providers in the non-profit sector in York Region. There is no fee for training/consultation to organizations in the Region.

The training has been extremely well received. Feedback from participants includes:

- "Thank you so much for the training... The feedback from staff has been outstanding. They are still talking about it. They not only loved the topic, the content and the interactive opportunities of the day, they are also praising you very highly for your group skills."
- "This is one of the best training sessions I've ever experienced in my 20+ years at this agency."
- "Excellent program. Everything presented was useful and thought provoking."