

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MAY 15, 2012**

### **PROCLAMATION REQUEST ONTARIO HUMAN RIGHTS CODE DAY**

#### **Recommendation**

The City Clerk recommends:

- 1) That June 15, 2012 be proclaimed "Ontario Human Rights Code Day"; and
- 2) That the proclamation be posted on the City's website and published on the City Page Online;

#### **Contribution to Sustainability**

N/A

#### **Economic Impact**

N/A

#### **Communications Plan**

The Corporate Communications Department posts proclamations issued by the City on the City's website under "Events – Proclamations" and on the City Page Online.

#### **Purpose**

To respond to the request received from the Chief Commissioner, Ontario Human Rights Commission, dated May 2, 2012.

#### **Background - Analysis and Options**

A request has been received from the Chief Commissioner, Ontario Human Rights Commission to proclaim June 15, 2012 "Ontario Human Rights Code Day". (Attachment 1).

The Ontario Human Rights Commission is requesting City of Vaughan Council to proclaim June 15, 2012 as "Ontario Human Rights Code Day" in an effort to celebrate the many changes seen in the past 50 years. Some of these changes include the end of segregation, workplaces opening their doors to newcomers, public facilities accommodating people with disabilities and freedom from discrimination and harassment. The proclamation would also raise awareness of how far we have come to achieve equitable inclusive environments that protect and advance human rights.

The proclamation request meets the City's Proclamation Policy as the matter relates to a matter within the City's jurisdiction.

#### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan**

This report supports the strategic priorities established by Vaughan Vision 2020, in particular "Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health and Wellness".

#### **Regional Implications**

N/A

**Conclusion**

Staff is recommending that June 15, 2012 be proclaimed "Ontario Human Rights Code Day" and that the proclamation be posted on the City's website and published on the City Page Online.

**Attachments**

Attachment 1: Correspondence from the Chief Commissioner, Ontario Human Rights Commission, dated May 2, 2012

**Report prepared by:**

Connie Bonsignore, Administrative Assistant to the City Clerk

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey A. Abrams  
City Clerk



**Ontario Human  
Rights Commission**

Office of the Chief Commissioner

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**Commission ontarienne  
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Cabinet de la commissaire en chef

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May 2, 2012

Your Worship and Members of Council,

**Re: Request for Ontario Human Rights Code Day/Week Proclamation**

On June 15, 2012, Ontario will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Ontario Human Rights Code*. The *Code* recognizes the dignity and worth of each person and ensures that everyone is free from discrimination and harassment where they live, work and play. Ultimately, its goal is to make sure everyone can reach their full potential and contribute in their communities.

We've seen a lot of change in the past 50 years. We've seen the end of segregation, workplaces opening doors to newcomers and women, public facilities accommodating people with disabilities, and systemic barriers within our institutions starting to be broken down.

To celebrate these accomplishments, to acknowledge the work that still needs to be done, and to make a commitment to creating equitable, inclusive environments that protect and advance human rights, I invite you to join other municipalities across the province in proclaiming June 15<sup>th</sup> Ontario Human Rights Code Day, or proclaiming the week of June 11 – 15 as Ontario Human Rights Code Week. Attached is some sample wording.

Proclaiming the day or the week gives municipalities an opportunity to encourage all residents to think about how far we have come in 50 years. It can also inspire us all to think about what steps we can collectively take to advance human rights – in our homes, our neighbourhoods and in local government.

If you do plan on proclaiming a human rights day or week, please let us know by May 30, 2012, so that we can acknowledge your commitment to human rights as we celebrate this milestone.

Yours truly,

Barbara Hall, B.A, LL.B, Ph.D (hon.)  
Chief Commissioner

CCM file # MGT2010-000379

**RECEIVED**  
**MAY 4 - 2012**  
**CLERK'S DEPT.**

**SAMPLE PROCLAMATION FOR ONTARIO *HUMAN RIGHTS CODE* DAY**

WHEREAS Ontario has been a leader in protecting and advancing human rights for more than 50 years;

WHEREAS the Ontario *Human Rights Code* was first proclaimed on June 15, 1962;

WHEREAS each person has the right to be free from discrimination and harassment and to reach their full potential – no matter their race, ethnic origin, place of birth, religion, ability level, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or any other status;

WHEREAS protecting human rights reduces tension and conflict and creates an atmosphere of mutual respect and belonging;

WHEREAS municipalities play a critical role in nurturing human rights and creating equitable environments where everyone is included in work and services and able to enjoy the benefits of their community;

WHEREAS each one of us has a role to play in making sure that human rights are respected;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT <the municipality of> does hereby proclaim June 15<sup>th</sup> Ontario *Human Rights Code* Day.

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2012 by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Municipality)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Mayor's signature)