



April 30th, 2018

Mr. Christopher Raynor,
Regional Clerk,
Regional Municipality of York,
17250 Yonge Street,
Newmarket,
Ontario L3Y 6Z1

Re: Request for Recognition and Flag Raising for York Region's Pride Week: June 8-17, 2018

Dear Mr. Raynor,

On behalf of York Region's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBTQ2S) community and its allies, we are writing to request your municipality's participation in York Region's 18th annual Pride festival – to proudly unite with us in celebration and promotion of acceptance, inclusivity, equality and love.

York Pride Fest is a registered not-for-profit, community based organization that has organized York Region's Annual Pride Festival each year for the past decade. This festival is one of the fastest growing regional Pride festivals across Canada and includes many events; most notably the annual York Region Pride Parade and concurrent festivities that incorporate live entertainment, a community fair, beer garden, firework display and a variety of other family-friendly activities. This year and next, we are striving to expand our festival as we prepare for our twentieth anniversary of Pride celebrations in York Region in 2020.

Our organization brings visibility to the region's LGBTQ2S community in order to pursue its mission to illuminate and celebrate human diversity, captivate the general public and inspire inclusivity. York Pride is run entirely by a team of dedicated volunteers which includes representatives from many local organizations. It is because of the generous support from our partners that we are able to be as active in the community as we are.

By choosing to align yourself with our Pride Festival, you demonstrate your commitment to a safe, inclusive and discrimination free region for all of our citizens.

pride knows no boundaries
York Region

165-A Pony Drive, Newmarket, ON, L3Y 7B5

Online: www.yorkpridefest.com

Phone: 905-235-3186

Email: info.2018@yorkpridefest.com

This year, we are requesting involvement and leadership from the Regional Municipality of York through:

- **The Recognition of Pride Week** (June 8th – 17th, 2018). This recognition would be a valued acknowledgement of the lives and contributions of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities living in York Region. Each year, for more than a decade, York Region's Pride Week has been recognized by the Regional Municipality of York and proclaimed by most of York Region's nine municipalities.
- **Rainbow Flag Raising during Pride Week** on a municipal flagpole in the Regional Municipality of York, in celebration of diversity, inclusivity and equality. Last year's Pride Week was launched by official flag-raising ceremonies in five municipalities, and additionally at York Regional Police regional headquarters in Aurora as well as each of their 5 districts across the region. In addition, the Towns of Georgina and East Gwillimbury raised the flag on four flag poles surrounding the Woodbine Ave and Ravenshoe Road intersection. Throughout Pride Week the flag was also flown without ceremony by many schools and various public service organizations.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to welcoming you, your elected officials, your staff colleagues and community members at this year's Pride Festival.

For information about York Region's 2018 Pride Festival, please visit yorkpridefest.com or contact jacob.gal@yorkpridefest.com.

Sincerely,



Jacob Gal
Development & Communications



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