



April 12th, 2017

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 9-18, 2017

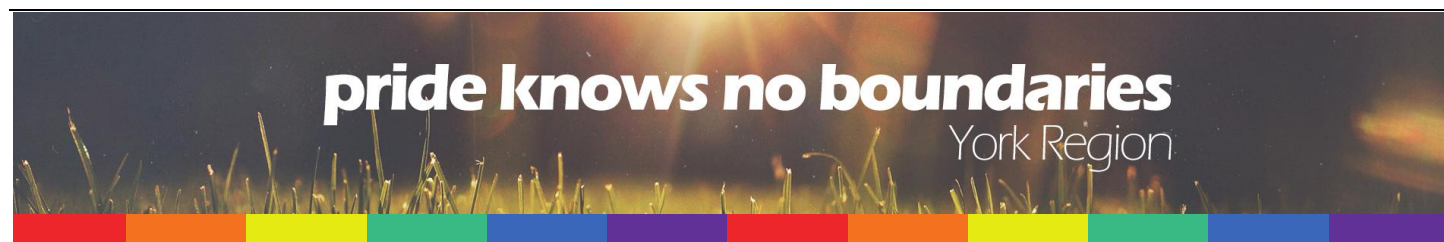
Dear Mr. Raynor,

On behalf of York Region's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT+) community and its allies, we are writing to request your municipality's participation in York Region's 17th annual Pride Week 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 many growing regional Pride Week 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 and a variety of other family-friendly activities. This year, these will include celebration of Canada's 150th anniversary.

Our organization brings visibility to the region's LGBT+ community in order to pursue its mission to illuminate and celebrate human diversity, captivate the general public and inspire inclusivity. York Pride Fest 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.



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

Online: www.yorkpridefest.com

Phone: 905-235-3186

Email: info.2017@yorkpridefest.com

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

- **The Recognition of Pride Week** (June 9th – 18th, 2017). 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 the regional headquarters of York Regional Police in Aurora. 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 colleagues and community members at this year's Pride Week festivities celebrating Canada's 150th anniversary.

For information about York Region's 2017 Pride Week, please visit yorkpridefest.com or contact jacob.gal@yorkpridefest.com.

Sincerely,



Jacob Gal
Development & Communications



pride knows no boundaries
York Region