

# STAND PROUD YORK REGION

April 2nd, 2016

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

**PFLAG CANADA**  
York Region ON

10660 YONGE ST.  
PO BOX 30516  
RICHMOND HILL, ON L4C 0G7

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R.M.Y.  
CLERK

**Re: Request for Recognition and Flag Raising for York Region's Pride Week: June 11-19, 2016**

Dear Mr. Kelly,

On behalf of York Region's LGBTQ community and its allies, we are writing to you to request your municipality's participation in York Region's 16<sup>th</sup> annual Pride Week (York Pride Fest) – to stand proud with us and celebrate acceptance, inclusivity, equality and love.

PFLAG Canada York Region is the Regional Municipality of York's LGBTQ support, resource and education network and is a volunteer-led charitable organization servicing one of the fastest growing and multi-cultural regions nationwide. Every day, our compassionate and dedicated volunteers are contacted by frightened adolescents and by angry, fearful, confused or ashamed parents from all walks of life that have questions or concerns about sexual orientation or gender identity. Our volunteers are there for those in need, when it seems no one else is.

We are also a proud partner of York Pride Fest, a volunteer led organization that organizes our Region's Pride Week celebrations.

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

- **The Recognition of Pride Week** (June 11 – 19, 2016). 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. For more than a decade, York Region's Pride Week has been recognized by the Regional Municipality of York and proclaimed by most of its municipalities.
- **Raising the Pride flag 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 five official municipal flag-raising ceremonies, including the first pride flag raising by a major police service in Canada at the York Regional Police headquarters in Aurora.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to welcoming you, your leadership team and elected officials at this year's Pride Week festivities.

For information about Pride Week 2016, please visit [yorkpridefest.com](http://yorkpridefest.com) or contact [jacob.gal@yorkpridefest.com](mailto:jacob.gal@yorkpridefest.com).

Sincerely,

**Amanda Knege**  
President

**Michael Blackburn**  
Vice President

