

CLERK

March 20th, 2015

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

RE: Request for Recognition and Flag Raising for York Region Pride Week - June 13-21, 2015

Dear Mr. Kelly,

On behalf of York Pride Fest, I am writing to request your participation in Pride Week 2015.

The York Pride Fest team, made up of volunteer leaders, organizes York Region's Pride Week celebrations. PFLAG Canada - York Region, a registered charity and York Region's local chapter of the national PFLAG Canada organization, has been a proud member of York Pride Fest since its formation.

This year marks the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pride Week in York Region.

York Pride Fest is requesting involvement and leadership from the Regional Municipality of York through:

- The recognition of Pride Week June 13<sup>th</sup> to June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015. 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, each year, been officially recognized by the Regional Municipality of York Region and proclaimed by all municipalities (except King Township and East Gwillimbury, which presently have 'no proclamations' policies).
- The flying of the Rainbow Flag, during Pride Week 2015, on a municipal flagstaff in the Regional Municipality of York, in celebration of diversity and protection of equality. If needed, we would be delighted to provide a flag of a size to meet your preference. Last year York Region Pride Week was launched by official flag-raising ceremonies hosted by both the Town of Richmond Hill and the City of Markham. Photographs from these events can be found on our website. Aurora, Georgina, Newmarket and the City of Vaughan also flew the Pride flag in 2014.

Please visit the York Region Pride Fest website at <u>www.yorkpridefest.com</u> for up-to-date information about events scheduled throughout the week, as well as a review of last year's Pride Week events. Contact Haran Vijayanathan at 416-529-7161 or haran.vijayanathan@yorkpridefest.com for more information

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

Sincerely,

Linda Keith President, PFLAG Canada - York Region