January 21, 2015



Bruce Macgregor CAO Regional Municipality of York 17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket, Ontario, L3Y 6Z1

Re: Invitation to participate in Autism Ontario's "Raise the Flag" campaign on April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2015 in celebration of World Autism Awareness Day.

Dear Sir / Madam,

April 2, 2015, will mark a historic day in Canada for the autism community. For the third year, Canadians will officially recognize World Autism Awareness Day.

To formally acknowledge the day, Autism Ontario is inviting all municipalities to proclaim April 2, 2015 as World Autism Awareness Day and raise Autism Ontario's Flag.

By participating in our 2015 "Raise the Flag" campaign, you are increasing public awareness about Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and the day-to-day issues faced by people with autism and their families.

If your community is interested in supporting autism awareness by participating in Autism Ontario's "Raise the Flag" campaign on April 2, 2015, please register your municipality at <u>http://bit.ly/MunRTF2015</u>, on or before March 13, 2015.

Last year we requested that municipalities keep the flag for future use. We have a limited number of flags available for those who require one; please make note when completing the online registration if you require one.

The March 13, 2015 registration deadline will allow us to mail out flags to those who need it, and to advertise through our communication channels that your municipality will be participating. We recognize municipalities have a formal approval process for recognizing charitable proclamations and may not be able to register by the deadline; if this is the case we still invite you to proclaim the day and raise a flag, if you have one. Please notify us of your participation by emailing <u>rtf@autismontario.com</u>.



We are also excited to share with you that in mid-February 2015 we will be launching a new website that will enable Ontarians to share their stories of inclusion and opportunities. Please visit <u>www.raisetheflagforautism.com</u> in the coming weeks and share your story!

For questions regarding participation, please contact Kavitha Krishnaswamy at 1-800-472-7789 extension 238.

Sincerely,

Autism Ontario's Raise the Flag Committee 1179 King Street west, Suite 004 Toronto, Ontario M6K 3C5 416-246-9592 ext. 238 <u>rtf@autismontario.com</u>

## About Us

Autism Ontario is the leading source of information on autism and one of the largest collective voices representing the autism community in Ontario. Today, 1 in 94 children are diagnosed with autism in Canada. Through improved public awareness, Autism Ontario strives to increase opportunities and acceptance for over 100,000 people living with Autism Spectrum Disorder in Ontario, ensuring that each person with ASD is provided the means to achieve quality of life as a respected member of society.

Learn more at www.autismontario.com

**Enclosure**:

Proclamation

Follow us on Twitter! @AutismONT and tweet your Raise the Flag photos with #RaisetheFlagforAutism