
DATE: May 8, 2012

REPORT TITLE: **PRIDE WEEK PROCLAMATION**

FROM: David Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That July 9 to 15, 2012 be proclaimed Pride Week in the Regional Municipality of Peel.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- The Pride Committee of Peel is currently planning its ninth annual Peel Pride Day to be held at the Heart Lake Conservation Area on July 15, 2012.
- A unified proclamation of Pride in Peel would affirm the Region's support of a positive, safe and inclusive environment for the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, and Transgendered Community (LGBT) in Peel Region.

DISCUSSION

1. Background

The Pride movement, which has been active in Canada for over 40 years, continues to promote inclusive communities and reduced discrimination.

The Peel community is rich with diversity of many forms - a key contributor to our strength, creativity and innovation as a Region. In an effort to cultivate an inclusive Peel for all residents, many community organizations are working collaboratively to respond to issues of participation as well as promote safe spaces for all residents of Peel. One of these organizations is the Pride Committee of Peel.

The Pride Committee of Peel has served Brampton, Mississauga and Caledon areas since 2003 as a volunteer non-profit organization with the goal of bringing the LGBT community together in Peel Region. The Committee works in collaboration with several organizations in Peel, such as the Peel Regional Police, to address important issues related to youth, HIV/AIDS, health and safety, families and community. The committee also partners with several community agencies such as Peel HIV/AIDS Network, Associated Youth Services of Peel, and East Mississauga Community Health Services.

May 8, 2012

PRIDE WEEK PROCLAMATION**2. Current Situation****a. Pride Week – July 9 – 15, 2012**

To honour and build awareness of this event, the City of Brampton and Town of Caledon Council will be asked to endorse the Proclamation of Pride Week from July 9 to July 15 in each of their respective municipalities. This year, the Pride Committee of Peel is hoping for a unified proclamation of Pride week right across the Region. As such, the Region of Peel is invited to join in this celebration of Pride by proclaiming Pride Week in Peel from July 9 to 15, 2012.

b. Peel Pride Day – July 15, 2012

The Committee is currently planning its ninth annual Peel Pride Day to be held at the Heart Lake Conservation Area on July 15, 2012. The annual Pride Day picnic is an all-ages family oriented event to celebrate Pride in Peel and bring awareness to the diversity of the LGBT community. Leading up to July 15, smaller-scale community events will take place around Peel, such as, a Pride March/Community Fair, youth movie night and a health and wellness day.

c. CMARD Commitment

In 2011 the Region of Peel became a signatory member of Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination (CMARD) to partner with other municipalities through the development of strategies and meaningful action towards eliminating racism and discrimination. Support of Pride Week in Peel would align to one of CMARD's three primary areas of municipal responsibility: The municipality as a community sharing responsibility for respecting and promoting human rights and diversity.

d. Peel LGBT Staff Network

Recent formation of a Peel LGBT Staff Network has brought this issue into conversation. The LGBT Staff Network is an independent, employee-led group that strives to promote understanding, provide support as well as identify opportunities for greater inclusion in the Peel community.

CONCLUSION

A proclamation of Pride Week in Peel would affirm the Region's support of a positive, safe and inclusive environment for the LGBT Community as well as further the strategic objective to build a cohesive Peel community. The proclamation is attached as Appendix I.

This would be the City of Brampton's ninth annual event and the second annual Proclamation for the Town of Caledon.

Approved for Submission:

D. Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer

For further information regarding this report, please contact Diana Rea at extension 4036 or via email at diana.rea@peelregion.ca

APPENDIX I

Proclamation

PRIDE WEEK

JULY 9 TO 15, 2012

WHEREAS the Region of Peel, through its Strategic Plan, is committed to building community cohesion;

AND WHEREAS, the Region of Peel is a member of the Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination (CMARD);

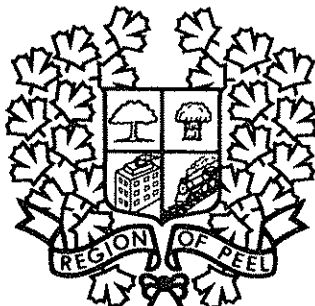
AND WHEREAS, Gay pride celebrations have become common in many Canadian cities, and the Pride Committee of Peel is celebrating its ninth annual Pride Week and is planning its ninth annual Peel Pride Day to be held at the Heart Lake Conservation Area on July 15, 2012;

AND WHEREAS, it is understood that the dignity and equality of all members of the community serve as the foundation of a free, peaceful and just society;

AND WHEREAS, it remains important to recognize the essential worth of every human person and to promote the development of harmonious relationships amongst all members of the community;

AND WHEREAS, discrimination against lesbians, gays, bi-sexuals, and the transgendered community must be prevented and awareness and acceptance of this community is crucial to an inclusive society;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that July 9 to 15, 2012 be proclaimed "PRIDE WEEK" in the Regional Municipality of Peel.



Emil Kolb
Regional Chair