



May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Mr. Todd Coles,  
City Clerk,  
City of Vaughan,  
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive,  
Vaughan,  
Ontario L6A 1T1

RECEIVED

MAY 07 2019

CLERK'S DEPT.

**Re: Request for Proclamation and Flag Raising for York Region's Pride Week: June 7-16, 2019**

Dear Mr. Coles,

On behalf of York Region's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (2SLGBTQ+) community and its allies, we are writing to convey our sincere thanks to the City of Vaughan for not only granting our proclamation request in 2018, but also hosting an amazing official flag-raising ceremony that was thoroughly enjoyed and valued by members of our community and their allies.

We would also like to request the municipality's participation in York Region's 19th annual Pride festival – to proudly unite with us once again 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 fastest growing regional Pride 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, beer garden, firework display and a variety of other family-friendly activities. In 2018, these events were attended by over 25,000 2SLGBTQ+ community members and their allies from across our region. This year, we are striving to expand our festival further as we prepare for our twentieth anniversary of Pride celebrations in York Region in 2020.

Our organization brings visibility to the region's 2SLGBTQ+ community in order to pursue its mission to illuminate and celebrate human diversity, captivate the general public and inspire inclusivity. York Pride 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.

**pride knows no boundaries**

York Region

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

Online: <http://yorkpridefest.com/>

Phone: 905-235-3186

Email: <mailto:info.2019@yorkpridefest.com>

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.

This year, we are requesting involvement and leadership from the City of Vaughan through:

- **The Proclamation of Pride Week** (June 7<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019). This proclamation 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 almost two decades, 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 City of Vaughan, in celebration of diversity, inclusivity and equality. Last year's Pride Week was launched by official flag-raising ceremonies in five municipalities, including the City of Vaughan, and additionally at York Regional Police regional headquarters in Aurora as well as each of their 5 districts across the region. In addition, the Towns of Georgina and East Gwillimbury raised the flag on four flag poles surrounding the Woodbine Ave and Ravenshoe Road intersection. Throughout Pride Week the flag was also flown without ceremony by many schools and various public service organizations. **This year, we would also ask that you consider flying the Transgender Pride Flag** immediately beneath the Rainbow flag as an explicit symbol of your support for trans. members of our community.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to welcoming you, your elected officials, your staff colleagues and community members at this year's Pride Festival.

For information about York Region's 2019 Pride Festival, please visit [yorkpridefest.com](http://yorkpridefest.com) or contact [jacob.gal@yorkpridefest.com](mailto:jacob.gal@yorkpridefest.com).

Sincerely,



**Jacob Gal**  
Development & Communications  
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York Region