

MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Meeting/Date	COUNCIL – JUNE 12, 2019
Title:	MULTICULTURALISM DAY IN VAUGHAN
Submitted by:	Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua
<p>Whereas, on November 13, 2002, the Government of Canada, by Royal Proclamation, designated June 27 of each year as Canadian Multiculturalism Day;</p> <p>Whereas, Canadian Multiculturalism Day is an opportunity to celebrate our diversity and our commitment to democracy, equality and mutual respect and to appreciate the contributions of the various multicultural groups and communities to Canadian society;</p> <p>Whereas, cultural programs are fundamental to give shape to a community's identity as well as drive economic development, tourism, place-making and city-building;</p> <p>Whereas, more than 90 per cent of the foreign-owned companies, operating in York Region, are based in Vaughan and our southern York Region neighbouring communities;</p> <p>Whereas, nearly half of Vaughan's population was born abroad and citizens speak 105 different languages;</p> <p>Whereas, the City of Vaughan hosts numerous city-wide cultural programs and celebrations for residents, families, businesses and visitors to experience throughout the year and help sew the social fabric across the city;</p> <p>Whereas, signature events like our Christmas Tree Lighting, Chinese New Year, Menorah Lighting Ceremony and Vaughan Culture Days have become annual traditions, as have cultural celebrations such as Black History Month and Islamic Heritage month, along with several other cultural and community flag raisings;</p> <p>Whereas, Vaughan has a staff-oriented working group to develop an Inclusion Charter to ensure Vaughan and York Region remain welcoming and inclusive - an initiative grounded in federal and provincial legislation that promotes human rights and accessibility;</p> <p>Whereas, the City of Vaughan most recently celebrated Black History month and Jewish Heritage Month and has commemorative multicultural activities and observances planned for the upcoming summer months including Italian Heritage Month (June), National Indigenous History Month (June), National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21) featuring an art exhibition On the Slate entitled facingNORTH and our signature Canada Day celebration North Maple Regional Park (July 1)</p> <p><i>It is therefore recommended that:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. The Mayor proclaim June 27 as Canadian Multiculturalism Day in Vaughan;</i> <i>2. That, Vaughan staff continue to engage residents, businesses, community groups and employees to celebrate, reflect and participate in the many events and activities that the City of Vaughan organizes and supports throughout the year.</i> 	

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua