

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 10, 2021

Item 7, Report No. 11, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on March 10, 2021.

7. PROCLAMATION REQUESTS: VAUGHAN DOWN SYNDROME DAY; 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TORONTO & YORK REGION LABOUR COUNCIL; ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE DAY; AND PERSONAL SUPPORT WORKER (PSW) DAY

The Committee of the Whole recommends:

- 1) That the recommendations contained in the following report of the Deputy City Manager, Administrative Services and City Solicitor dated March 8, 2021, be approved; and
- 2) That the illumination of City Hall be approved as follows:
 - (a) April 15, 2021 in Blue and White for Israel Independence Day; and
 - (b) May 19, 2021 in Blue and Green for Personal Support Worker Day.

Recommendations

1. That March 21, 2021 be proclaimed as "Vaughan Down Syndrome Day";
2. That a proclamation be issued April 12, 2021 to recognize the 150th Anniversary of the Toronto & York Region Labour Council;
3. That April 15, 2021 be proclaimed as "Israel Independence Day", and that Council provide direction on the illumination of City Hall in Blue and White;
4. That May 19, 2021 be proclaimed as "Personal Support Worker Day", and that Council provide direction on the illumination of City Hall in Blue and Green; and
5. That the proclamations be posted on the City's website and the Corporate and Strategic Communications department be directed to promote the above-noted proclamations through the various corporate channels.

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Monday, March 8, 2021

WARD(S): ALL

**TITLE: PROCLAMATION REQUESTS:
VAUGHAN DOWN SYNDROME DAY;
150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TORONTO & YORK REGION
LABOUR COUNCIL;
ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE DAY; AND
PERSONAL SUPPORT WORKER (PSW) DAY**

FROM:

Wendy Law, Deputy City Manager, Administrative Services and City Solicitor

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To seek approval for proclamation requests for: Vaughan Down Syndrome Day, the 150th Anniversary of the Toronto & York Region Labour Council, Israel's Independence Day, and Personal Support Worker (PSW) Day; and to seek direction on the request for City Hall Illumination for Israel Independence Day and PSW Day.

Report Highlights

- Respond to requests from the Down Syndrome Association of York Region (DSAYR), the Toronto & York Region Labour Council, the Consulate General of Israel (Toronto and Western Canada), and The Canadian PSW Network.
- Proclamation requests are for dates between March and May 2021.

Recommendations

1. That March 21, 2021 be proclaimed as "Vaughan Down Syndrome Day";
2. That a proclamation be issued April 12, 2021 to recognize the 150th Anniversary of the Toronto & York Region Labour Council;
3. That April 15, 2021 be proclaimed as "Israel Independence Day", and that Council provide direction on the illumination of City Hall in Blue and White;

4. That May 19, 2021 be proclaimed as “Personal Support Worker Day”, and that Council provide direction on the illumination of City Hall in Blue and Green; and
5. That the proclamations be posted on the City’s website and the Corporate and Strategic Communications department be directed to promote the above-noted proclamations through the various corporate channels.

Background

Vaughan Down Syndrome Day

Correspondence was received from the Down Syndrome Association of York Region on February 3, 2021 requesting a proclamation.

The Down Syndrome Association of York Region has been providing services and promoting a positive image of people with Down Syndrome as being valuable members of the community for over 24 years. World Down Syndrome Day is a global awareness day that has been officially observed since 2012, and they would like the City to officially proclaim “Vaughan Down Syndrome Day”.

150th Anniversary of the Toronto York Region Labour Council

Correspondence was received from the Toronto & York Region Labour Council on February 10, 2021, requesting a proclamation on April 12, 2021 to recognize their 150th Anniversary.

Founded on April 12, 1871, the Labour Council has organized working people to join together in the quest for economic and social justice. The Labour Council represents 220,000 women and men who work in every sector of the economy, and their collective efforts have strengthened the communities in which they work and live.

Israel’s Independence Day

Correspondence was received from the Consulate General of Israel (Toronto and Western Canada) on February 19, 2021 requesting a proclamation as the State of Israel will be celebrating its 73rd Independence Day on April 15, 2021. They have also requested that City Hall be illuminated in Blue and White on the evening of April 14, 2021.

The proclamation request has been previously approved by Council.

Personal Support Worker (PSW) Day

Correspondence was received from the Canadian PSW Network on January 14, 2021 requesting a proclamation and illumination at City Hall, in their Network's colours – Blue and Green, on May 19, 2021.

Personal Support Workers's care for the community's most vulnerable, with the past year being extremely challenging. Throughout the pandemic they have given so much of themselves every day to ensure the safety and care of our seniors and vulnerable. The Canadian PSW Network is a not-for-profit network that provides support, resources, and advocacy for PSW's.

Previous Reports/Authority

Israel's Independence Day - [Committee of the Whole - March 9, 2020](#)

Analysis and Options

Vaughan Down Syndrome Day

The proclamation request meets the requirements of the City's Proclamation Policy as follows:

"An official and ceremonial statement made by or under the authority of Council, recognizing a cause, event or commemoration of significance to the City of Vaughan and its citizens.

2.1. For the purposes of section 2, a proclamation may be issued for:

- 2.1.3. Charitable and non-profit fundraising campaigns;
- 2.1.4. Public awareness campaigns;"

150th Anniversary of the Toronto & York Region Labour Council

The proclamation request meets the requirements of the City's Proclamation Policy as follows:

"An official and ceremonial statement made by or under the authority of Council, recognizing a cause, event or commemoration of significance to the City of Vaughan and its citizens.

2.1. For the purposes of section 2, a proclamation may be issued for:

- 2.1.6. Special recognition for individual or organizational achievements".

Israel's Independence Day

The proclamation request meets the requirements of the City's Proclamation Policy as follows:

"An official and ceremonial statement made by or under the authority of Council, recognizing a cause, event or commemoration of significance to the City of Vaughan and its citizens.

2.1. For the purposes of section 2, a proclamation may be issued for:

2.1.1. Arts, culture or heritage commemorations in the City of Vaughan"

Personal Support Worker Day

The proclamation request meets the requirements of the City's Proclamation Policy as follows:

"An official and ceremonial statement made by or under the authority of Council, recognizing a cause, event or commemoration of significance to the City of Vaughan and its citizens.

2.1. For the purposes of section 2, a proclamation may be issued for:

2.1.3. Charitable and non-profit fundraising campaigns;

2.1.4. Public awareness campaigns"

Illumination Requests

An Illumination Policy is currently in development and expected to be before Council for approval in Q2 2021. As the City does not currently have a policy in place for illumination requests, staff will require direction from Council.

Financial Impact

There is no expected financial impact with respect to this request.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

Not applicable.

Conclusion

Having reviewed the requests, staff is recommending that March 21, 2021 be proclaimed as Vaughan Down Syndrome Day; that a proclamation be issued on April 12, 2021, commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Toronto & York Region Labour Council; that April 15, 2021 be proclaimed as Israeli's Independence Day; that May 19,

2021 be proclaimed Personal Support Worker Day; that Council provide direction on the illumination requests from the Consulate General of Israel and the Canadian PSW Network; and finally that the proclamations be posted on the City's website and that the Corporate and Strategic Communications department be directed to promote the proclamations through the various corporate channels.

For more information, please contact Todd Coles, City Clerk, ext. 8281.

Attachments

1. Correspondence from the President, Down Syndrome Association of York Region, received February 3, 2021.
2. Correspondence from the President, Toronto & York Region Labour Council, received on February 10, 2021.
3. Correspondence from the Director of Government Relations, Consulate General of Israel (Toronto and Western Canada), received on February 19, 2021.
4. Correspondence from the Founder and CEO, The Canadian PSW Network, received on January 14, 2021.

Prepared by

Shari Gouzvaris, Supervisor, City Clerk's Administrative Services, ext. 8280

Approved by



Wendy Law
Deputy City Manager
Administrative Services &
City Solicitor

Reviewed by



Jim Harnum, City Manager

Office of the City Clerk
City of Vaughan
Vaughan City Hall, Level 100
2141 Major Mackenzie Dr.
Vaughan, ON L6A 1T1

Re: Flag Raising & Proclamation Request for World Down Syndrome Day on March 21, 2021

Dear Sir/Madame:

For over 24 years the Down Syndrome Association of York Region (DSAYR) has been providing valuable services and promoting a positive image of people with Down syndrome as being valuable community members. We are a group of parents, individuals with Down syndrome, educators and community support professionals who firmly believe in the inherent equality of people with Down syndrome.

World Down Syndrome Day (WDS), March 21st, is a global awareness day which has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012. The Province of Ontario proclaimed March 21st as Ontario Down Syndrome Day, since 2016.

As such, we are requesting the City of Vaughan join our celebration by raising the DSAYR's flag from Friday March 19 to Monday March 22, 2021 and to Proclaim March 21st as "Vaughan" Down Syndrome Day. We are making a similar request of all 9 Municipalities in York Region, so that this day can be recognized throughout our communities, in unison. During this pandemic, this is the safest and most widespread way for us to promote awareness.

We also ask that the event be promoted via the City of Vaughan's social media mediums as you see fit (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn etc.).

We would greatly appreciate the City of Vaughan's assistance in promoting World Down Syndrome Day on March 21, 2021.

We will arrange for delivery of our organization's flag once our request has been approved.

The City of Vaughan's support is important to us. Thank you for considering our request. You can contact us at 416-410-DOWN or email us at info@dsayr.ca.

Sincerely,

Domenic Gentilini

Domenic Gentilini
President, DSAYR



February 10, 2021

Maurizio Bevilacqua, Mayor
City of Vaughan
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Maple L6A 1T1

Dear Mayor Bevilacqua:

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Toronto & York Region Labour Council. Founded on April 12th 1871, the Labour Council has organized working people to join together in the quest for economic and social justice ever since. Over the coming months we will share the story of those who came before us and celebrate their collective efforts for social solidarity, equity and respect.

Our history began on the land of Indigenous communities, and it has been forged by those who have come from around the world as immigrants or refugees to build Canada's largest urban centre. In no small part, the quality of life which Canadians enjoy today derives from the sacrifices and struggles of past generations.

Today the Labour Council represents 220,000 women and men who work in every sector of the economy. From the beginning, the labour movement in greater Toronto has been guided by the principle that "What we desire for ourselves, we wish for all". Our collective efforts have strengthened the communities in which we work and live, and helped sustain vital public services and programs.

This is a formal request that the City of Vaughan issue a proclamation for April 12, 2021 in recognition of this historic milestone.

We are also asking you to provide the opportunity to use public spaces for a display and possible live events, when and if the current pandemic allows us to do so.

Yours truly,

John Cartwright
President



Attachment 3

Mr. Todd Coles, City Clerk
2141 Major Mackenzie Dr
Maple, ON
L6A 1T1

February 19, 2021

Dear Mr. Coles,

Please consider this letter as a formal request to use the Vaughan City Council to issue a proclamation that would mark Thursday, April 15th, as Israel's 73rd Independence Day/ Yom Haatzmaut and include the raising of flag of the State of Israel at the Courtesy Flag Pole and that City Hall will be illuminated in the colors of Blue and White on the evening of April 14th.

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic and the current health regulations in place, the Consulate General of Israel in Toronto understands that in person ceremonies are not an option this year, but would like to mark the occasion to celebrate the strong friendship between the City of Vaughan and the State of Israel with the raising of the flag of the State of Israel.

I appreciate you taking the time to review this request and present it before City Council on behalf of the Consulate General of Israel in Toronto.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Jordan Falkenstein
Director, Government Relations
Consulate General of Israel
2 Bloor St. E, Suite 400
Toronto, ON, M4W 1A8
Telephone: 416-640-8540 Cell: 647-608-5944
E-mail: Govt-Relations@toronto.mfa.gov.il



THE CANADIAN PSW NETWORK

Keeping The CARE in Health Care

www.canadianpswnetwork.org

Proclamation Request

January 14th, 2021

To Whom This Concerns:

We are reaching out to respectfully request that your office grant us an official proclamation for Personal Support Worker (PSW) Day on May 19th of this year.

PSWs have selflessly and tirelessly provided care to our community's most vulnerable through an extraordinarily challenging year, a year made more precarious by a pandemic the likes of which many of us have never seen. Through all of this they have been, and continue to remain, steadfast and true. They have given so much of themselves every day, sacrificing their own health, safety, time with their families, even their lives to ensure the safety and care of our seniors and vulnerable.

As a proud Certified PSW myself, and Founder and CEO of The Canadian PSW Network; a not-for-profit network providing support, resources and advocacy for our fellow PSWs, I'm asking that you join with us in recognizing May 19th of this year in an official capacity with a Mayoral Proclamation deeming May 19th, 2021 as Official PSW Day on behalf of yourself and The Canadian PSW Network.

PSWs only get recognition this one day a year and I firmly believe they truly deserve our community leader's recognition and respect for everything they have done through this pandemic and through the horrific working conditions they face every day, especially in the Long-term Care setting.

If your office does not provide proclamations, but has an alternative such as a lighting of City Hall, we would be appreciative of the show of support and recognition however you can.

*If your office does not provide proclamations, but has an alternative such as a lighting of City Hall, we would be appreciative of the show of support and recognition however you can and a show of lighting in our Network's colours of **Blue** and **Green** would be greatly appreciated.*

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards,

Lynn Steele
PSW | CDCP
Founder & CEO
Direct: 647-848-3532