

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

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Approved by



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Reviewed by



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