



January 26, 2004

Chairman Bill Fisch and Members of Regional Council
Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1

Re: PRIDE Week 2004 ~ June 13 through 19

Dear Chairman Fisch and Council,

We are writing to request official Recognition of York Region's fourth annual Pride Week, June 13 through 19, 2004. Your past support for recognition of the lives and contributions of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities in York Region is greatly appreciated and we look forward to a continuation of this important tradition.

During the past two years, PRIDE York Region has developed liaisons with York Regional Police, York Region District School Board, York Region Health Services, and many other service providers and community organizations. We've made presentations to social service staff on same sex adoption and creating safe spaces; participated in minority awareness training for police officers; mounted Pride displays in regional public libraries; and spoken with hundreds of students about overcoming heterosexism in their schools and communities. We maintain a toll-free phone line, an informational web site, an active speakers bureau, and distribute a monthly e-newsletter to over 1400 subscribers. Our PRIDE York Region McBean Pride Library, located at the Krasman Centre in Richmond Hill, currently houses over 300 books, both reference and fiction, which are available as a resource for the people of York Region.

Once again this year, our aim with Pride Week is to increase awareness and understanding in the community through outreach initiatives that will continue year-round. It is our sincere hope that Regional Council will again acknowledge Pride Week with an official statement of support and Recognition. Should you require additional information in order to respond to this request, please let us know and we will be pleased to provide it. Due to the time and effort involved in Pride Week preparations, we would appreciate receiving your decision by March 31st. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Ian A. McCallum and Cheryl Cooke Harrington
Co-Chairs, PRIDE York Region



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