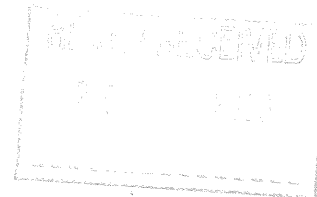


PFLAG **CANADA**
York Region

April 20, 2006

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



Re: York Region PRIDE Week 2006 ~ June 12 through 18

Dear Chairman Fisch and Council,

I am writing to request Official Recognition of *York Region Pride Week*, June 12 through 18, 2006.

PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual, transgendered, two-spirit, intersex, queer, and questioning persons, their families and friends. We provide support and information about sexual orientation and gender identity at regular monthly meetings where all are welcome. We also make speakers available for community groups and schools.

As you may be aware, April marks the mid-point of a PFLAG Canada-York Region special project: "*Stop Hate Crimes*". In cooperation with York Regional Police and with funding from Ministry of the Attorney General, Ontario Victim Services Secretariat, we launched Regional billboard and bus shelter ad campaign to spread the message that "*someone you know and love is gay*" and "*being gay is not a crime, bashing is*". Along with the billboard campaign, we are facilitating a victim support group; making posters and brochures available to community groups and schools throughout the Region; and hosting an informational web site. We believe that Regional recognition of Pride Week again this June would be a fitting way to mark the end of this important awareness-raising campaign.

Regional Council has granted its Official Recognition of Pride Week every year since 2000—an important acknowledgment of the lives and contributions of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. This year marks the sixth annual celebration of Pride Week in York Region and we look forward to your positive response regarding the continuation of this important tradition.

Sincerely,



Marilyn Byers
President, PFLAG Canada-York Region
Director, PFLAG Canada

Enclosure: *Stop Hate Crimes* brochure

PFLAG York Region is a non-profit charitable organization.
Charitable # 86159-2244-RR0001