



Request to Council:

Declaration of Pride Month and Raising of the Pride Flag

March 1, 2024

Dear Council Members,

On behalf of Stratford-Perth Pride, I am writing to request you to raise the rainbow pride flag in our community during the month of June and officially declare the month of June as Pride Month. This is an important step to show your support for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and recognize their contributions in our municipality.

Raising the Pride flag would send a message of inclusivity, diversity, and acceptance to all members of 2SLGBTQIA+ community and it would also be a reminder that you are committed to promoting equality and respect for all people.

The month of June is recognized worldwide as Pride Month, commemorating the Stonewall riots that took place in New York City on June 28, 1969. Since then, the month has been a time to celebrate the achievements and contributions of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, as well as raise awareness about ongoing issues we face – such as over representation in many local issues such as homelessness, poverty, discrimination, bullying and more.

Raising a piece of fabric on a pole and written statement recognizing Pride Month may seem like small and simple gestures but these actions are not only celebrating the rights and struggles of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community but also recognizing the need to work towards a more inclusive and accepting society.

Founded in 2017, Stratford-Perth Pride is a volunteer-run incorporated non-profit organization that provides 2SLGBTQIA+ programming, resources, and education to make each corner of Perth County a more welcoming, accepting, and inclusive community for gender and sexually diverse individuals. Our vision is to make Stratford and Perth County a place where no matter who you love or how you identify, you will be safe, valued, equal and proud. With your support we can achieve our vision.

Our organization is happy to have an in-depth conversation about our request if you council members wish to learn more. We are also here to support Council members and staff in becoming more 2SLGBTQIA+ inclusive. Never hesitate to reach out to see how we can provide support.

I hope you will consider Stratford-Perth Pride's request and take action to raise the Pride flag in our community for the month of June and declare June 2024 as Pride Month.

Yours in Pride,

Melissa Marcelissen (she/they)

President/Board Chair of Stratford-Perth Pride

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