

For Information

REPORT TITLE: **Visible Demonstrations of Pride in Peel**

FROM: Kathryn Lockyer, Interim Commissioner of Corporate Services

OBJECTIVE

To provide an update on visible demonstrations of support for Peel Pride in the community.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- Since 2002, Peel has been celebrating Pride in July.
 - There are numerous ways to visibly demonstrate support of Peel Pride and its 2SLGBTQ+ communities.
 - On July 11, 2019, Regional Council approved annual funding by the Region of Peel for up to \$25,000, between the Cities of Brampton and Mississauga and the Town of Caledon, for the creation of road decal Pride Flag crosswalks and Trans Flag crosswalks.
 - On April 9, 2020, Resolution 2019-712 was amended to afford greater flexibility, creativity and ownership to local municipalities regarding the use of Regional funds to visibly support Peel Pride in ways that are meaningful to the local community.
 - The installation of rainbow Pride benches is planned for the cities of Brampton, Mississauga and Town of Caledon in Spring 2021.
 - The City of Mississauga is utilizing 2020 and 2021 funding from the Region of Peel to design and install a rainbow crosswalk/ground mural in a prominent city location. The goal is to unveil the installation as part of 2021 Peel Pride celebrations.
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DISCUSSION

1. Background

Since 2002, Peel has been celebrating Pride in July. The decision to celebrate in July instead of June (national Pride month) was driven by the Peel Pride Committee, a volunteer organization known as *Peel Pride*. The main reason was to avoid competing with Toronto's events in June and afford people the ability to participate in both Toronto and Peel events.

On July 11, 2019, Regional Council passed Resolution 2019-712 which approved annual funding by the Region of Peel for up to \$25,000, allocated between the Cities of Brampton and Mississauga and the Town of Caledon, for the creation of road decal Pride Flag crosswalks and Trans Flag crosswalks.

In December 2019, staff from the Region and each local municipality met to discuss how to move forward with implementing the resolution in 2020 and thereafter. There was

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consensus among all parties that further research and engagement with community stakeholders was required.

On April 9, 2020, Resolution 2019-712 was amended to afford greater flexibility, creativity and ownership to local municipalities regarding the use of Regional funds to visibly support Pride in ways that are meaningful to the local community.

The revised Resolution 2019-712 provides as follows:

Whereas, the Region of Peel recognizes Pride Month in July and is a supporter of 2SLGBTQ+ communities;

And whereas, symbols of Pride are a reflection of the diversity in the Region of Peel;

And further, that the Region of Peel allocate funds on an annual basis, up to a maximum of \$25,000, between the Cities of Brampton and Mississauga and the Town of Caledon with each receiving up to one third of the funds;

And further, that the funds be applied toward visible demonstrations of Pride across the Region as determined through consultation with the communities and staff of each respective municipality;

And further, that visible demonstrations may include but are not limited to flags, murals and crosswalks;

And further, that funds will not be used for entertainment or event purposes.

2. Recent Developments

There are numerous ways to visibly demonstrate support of Peel Pride and its 2SLGBTQ+ communities. Efforts include but are not limited to flag raisings, community events and painted crosswalks.

In Spring 2021, the cities of Brampton, Mississauga and Town of Caledon will be installing rainbow benches as a visual symbol of support for the LGBTQ2S community. These benches were previously funded by the local municipalities and are being donated back by Sonya Shorter, Executive Director of Peel Pride.

This past summer the City of Mississauga, along with Rainbow Sauga Alliance, engaged its 2SLGBTQ+ community in a virtual discussion about ideas for physical expressions of Pride. There was strong support by participants for a “rainbow” crosswalk, as implemented in other jurisdictions including Goderich, Hamilton, London, and Toronto. As such, The City of Mississauga is utilizing 2020 and 2021 funding from the Region of Peel to design and install a rainbow crosswalk/ground mural in a prominent city location. The goal is to unveil the installation as part of 2021 Pride celebrations.

Moving forward, it is important for municipalities to continue to engage with the community to determine ways in which visible demonstrations of support should be made. Doing so not only allows for community engagement and strengthened relationships, but also ensures meaningful efforts and displays of diversity and inclusion.

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CONCLUSION

The Rainbow Crosswalk/Ground Mural is only one example of how Peel municipalities can signal that they are welcoming and inclusive to all residents. The Region of Peel will continue to partner with the City of Brampton, City of Mississauga and Town of Caledon to explore opportunities for collaboration and with community organizations to implement additional visible demonstrations of Pride as symbols of support for the 2SLGBTQ+ community. Municipalities are encouraged to utilize the Regional funding available to them.

For further information regarding this report, please contact Juliet Jackson, Director, Culture and Inclusion, Ext. 6741, juliet.jackson@peelregion.ca

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Reviewed and/or approved in workflow by:

Department Commissioner and Division Director.

Final approval is by the Chief Administrative Officer.



J. Baker, Chief Administrative Officer