

May 10, 2022

Re: Pride Flag Raising Request

Dear Mayor Finch and Members of Council,

June is nationally recognized as Pride Month in Canada. The month of June was chosen for Pride Month to commemorate the Stonewall Riots that took place in New York City during June of 1969. Today, many Pride events now take place throughout the month to recognize and celebrate the history, courage and diversity of LGBTQ2S+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Two-Spirit & more) people around the world.

During the month of June, many institutions and organizations, including our Nation's Parliament, fly the Pride flag as a celebration of diversity and the LGBTQ2S+ community. It is also an opportunity to come together to advocate, educate and continue to move forward on LGBTQ2S+ issues. While flying the Pride flag is not the only way to show acceptance and respect for the LGBTQ2S+ community, the flag has become an internationally recognized way for communities and organizations to support and acknowledge their LGBTQ2S+ residents.

This June, communities across Ontario and Canada, including several municipalities in Huron and Perth counties, will raise Pride flags to acknowledge and support their LGBTQ2S+ community members. By raising Pride flags, each municipality demonstrates that inclusion and tolerance are cornerstone values of their community.

To show your support for the LGBTQ2S+ community and show that our communities are safe for everyone – regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity – we ask that you **recognize June as Pride Month and raise a Pride flag in your community beginning on June 1, 2022**. See enclosed flag images and details.

To learn more about the history of Pride in Canada and the Pride flag, visit <https://www.queerevents.ca/canada/pride/history>.

Thank you for your consideration of this important gesture. If there is any further information we can provide that would assist, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,



Janet Jackson, Public Health Manager
On behalf of the Sexual Health Team
Huron Perth Public Health

About the Pride Flag

The Pride flag is a celebration of diversity and a visual reminder that shows individuals from the LGBTQ2S+ community they are welcome, safe, and supported. There are specific flags and flag variations for many identities within the LGBTQ2S+ community.

Rainbow Pride Flag

The current Pride flag's exact colours and dimensions have changed from the Gilbert Baker flag, which first appeared as a symbol of hope and representation of the LGBTQ2S+ community in 1978. The flag was originally designed with eight colours, but the 6-colour version with red, orange, yellow, green, blue and purple stripes has become the internationally recognized symbol of the LGBTQ2S+ community and the Pride movement.

**Progress/Progressive Pride Flag**

In 2018, graphic designer Daniel Quasar added a five-colored chevron to the original Rainbow Flag to place a greater emphasis on inclusion and progression. This flag, now widely referred to as the "Progressive Pride Flag" was designed to represent the forward movement of furthering inclusivity for all individuals who belong to the LGBTQ2S+ community. The flag includes black and brown stripes to represent marginalized LGBTQ2S+ communities of color, along with the colors pink, light blue and white, which are used on the Transgender Pride Flag.

