

MAYOR ASHE'S Official Statement on Supporting Pride and EDI

Pickering, ON, May 24, 2023 – At Council meeting, the City of Pickering passed a motion in support of Pride events and all Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion initiatives across the City and Durham Region, in honour of Pride Month and the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Through this motion, the City also reaffirms its commitment to advancing respect and inclusion for all 2SLGBTQIA+ community members and allies. The motion passed 6 - 1 on a recorded vote.

"I am proud that Pickering Council made a strong statement about supporting the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and the tenets of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. We are also aware of a recent video circulating online and corresponding commentary, and denounce all forms of homophobia, transphobia, biphobia and bigotry directed at the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and equity-deserving groups.

As Mayor, I want to be clear and unequivocal. Supporting 2SLGBTQIA+ rights is about building a stronger and more inclusive community, rather than creating a hierarchy or oppressing other groups. By advocating for the rights of Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual and other diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, we demonstrate our commitment to equity and respect for all community members. Embracing the diversity within our community and ensuring that everyone can live authentically and without fear of discrimination or prejudice is a core value that strengthens the fabric of our city.

Advancing 2SLGBTQIA+ rights enriches our community by fostering a sense of belonging, acceptance, and understanding for all. By standing together, we can create a community that celebrates the unique identities, perspectives, experiences and contributions of each resident, promoting unity, harmony, and a brighter future for everyone.

I look forward to our community coming together throughout June in celebration of Pride Month."

Signed Kevin Ashe, Mayor, City of Pickering.

This proclamation set a wild fire of controversy across Durham region. It is dividing the region as many groups are forming opposing the segregation of people by sexual preferences. Parents across the Nation, Province and Region are forming groups demanding answers from local schools boards pertaining to policy and educational material being presented to students.

Many parent groups even supportive of the new alternative life style movement. Question the purpose of some of their practices. This including some books with some sexually explicit wordings that may compromise the innocence of young minds. Politicians have come to jump of approving without further study of the ramifications of such approvals. The political support for popular thought at times blinds reason and logic. Oshawa, Whitby are also openly supporting the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

DURHAM ASKING OTTAWA FOR FIRM COMMITMENT ON PICKERING AIRPORT

One of the key elements of the recently adopted Regional Official Plan is a request for a firm commitment by Ottawa on the new future airport in Pickering.

It is the policy of Durham Regional Council to "request the federal government for a firm commitment to the construction of an airport on the federal lands in Pickering", said an excerpt from the new plan.

It went to to say that the council wants to "ensure that required services and infrastructure are planned to support and serve an airport, upon commitments being made to construct an airport in Pickering by the federal government".

It also said the council supports the development of a transportation-based, multi-modal employment hub in the vicinity of the federal lands in Pickering to maximize the economic benefit of a future

airport" and "supports the establishment of a new multi-modal transportation network serving a future airport in Pickering".

The council said once an announcement is made by the federal government, it aims to develop a plan to implement new highway connections, roads and new rapid transit infrastructure.

Durham Regional Council adopted the Regional Municipality of Durham's new Regional Official Plan (ROP), as amended, on Wednesday, May 17.

The adopted ROP provides policies and strategic directions that guide future growth, infrastructure and service delivery, land use planning and development related matters to ensure an improved quality of life – to secure health, safety, convenience, and well-being of present and future residents of Durham, said a region statement.



WHATEVER THE OCCASION, GIVE TO YOUR LOCAL EPILEPSY AGENCY.

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