



Corporation of the Municipality of Temagami

Memo No.  
2024-M-169

**Memorandum to Council**

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Memo on Flag and Proclamation Policy</b>
<b>Agenda Date:</b>	October 10 <sup>th</sup> 2024
<b>Attachments:</b>	

**RECOMMENDATION**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of Temagami received the Memo 2024-M-169 as presented.

**Introduction**

The proposed **By-law No. 24-1772** aims to establish a comprehensive **Flag and Proclamation Policy** for the Municipality of Temagami. This memo outlines compelling reasons for the Council to adopt this by-law, emphasizing its potential to enhance community relations, promote inclusivity, and honor the cultural significance of Indigenous Peoples while maintaining neutrality and respect for all community members. Additionally, comparisons with similar policies in other municipalities provide context for understanding the importance and impact of adopting this by-law.

**1. Promotion of Inclusivity and Respect**

Adopting the Flag and Proclamation Policy underscores the Municipality's commitment to inclusivity and respect for all community members. By establishing clear guidelines for flag-raising and proclamation activities, the policy ensures that diverse perspectives and contributions are recognized, fostering a sense of belonging among residents.

**Comparison with Other Municipalities:**

- **City of Toronto:** The Flag Protocol encourages the display of various flags, reflecting the city's multicultural identity and fostering a sense of belonging.
- **City of Ottawa:** The Flag Policy acknowledges Indigenous contributions and promotes respect for diverse communities.

**2. Acknowledgment of Indigenous Peoples' Contributions**

The policy recognizes the cultural and historical significance of Indigenous Peoples, including First Nations in the district. By including provisions for the respectful raising of Indigenous flags, the Municipality honors these communities' vital role in local history and culture.

**Comparison with Other Municipalities:**

- **City of Hamilton:** Their Flag Protocol supports inclusivity while remaining politically neutral, enhancing community pride.

- **City of Kingston:** The Flag Policy emphasizes Indigenous recognition and celebration of local heritage.

### **3. Maintaining Neutrality and Avoiding Political Bias**

It is crucial that the Municipality maintains a neutral stance in its flag-raising and proclamation activities. The policy explicitly states that these events are not political but rather reflective of community values, ensuring that all residents feel included and respected. This neutrality prevents the perception of favoritism towards any political agenda or group, reinforcing the Municipality's commitment to representing all constituents equally.

#### **Comparison with Other Municipalities:**

- **City of Mississauga:** Prioritizes neutrality in flag-raising, ensuring inclusivity and respect for all community members.
- **Town of Ajax:** Their Flag and Proclamation Policy emphasizes celebrating cultural events while avoiding political bias.

### **4. Strengthening Community Identity**

Flag-raising ceremonies and proclamations serve as powerful symbols of community identity and pride. By adopting this policy, the Municipality can create opportunities for community members to come together in celebration of shared values, achievements, and heritage.

Communities that embrace such practices often see increased civic engagement, as residents feel more connected to and invested in their community. Furthermore, the positive imagery associated with flag-raising ceremonies enhances the Municipality's public image, making Temagami a more attractive place for new residents, visitors, and businesses.

### **5. Establishing a Framework for Engagement**

The proposed by-law provides a structured approach to flag-raising and proclamation activities, allowing for transparency and consistency in decision-making. This framework will guide the Council in evaluating requests and engaging with community members.

#### **Comparison with Other Municipalities:**

- **City of Brampton:** Outlines specific procedures for requests, fostering community participation.
- **City of Kingston:** Establishes clear criteria that enhance trust and collaboration among residents.

## **6. Enhancing the Municipality's Reputation**

The adoption of a Flag and Proclamation Policy aligns with contemporary values of diversity, equity, and inclusion. By embracing these principles while maintaining neutrality, the Municipality can enhance its reputation as a progressive and welcoming community.

## **7. Building Trust and Collaboration**

Implementing the Flag and Proclamation Policy serves as a foundation for building trust and collaboration among community groups. By creating a platform for dialogue and representation, the Municipality can foster cooperation among residents and local organizations.

**Respectively Submitted**

**Laala Jahanshahloo**