



**Corporation of the Municipality of Temagami**

**Memo No.**  
2024-M-199

**Memorandum to Council**

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Proclamation Request for Christian Heritage Month</b>
<b>Agenda Date:</b>	November 28, 2024
<b>Attachments:</b>	Christian Music Festival's CEO

**RECOMMENDATION**

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT Council received Memo 2024-M-197 as presented (including the attachment hereto, forming a part of this report);

AND FURTHER THAT, The Municipality of Temagami declines the request from the Christian Music Festival to proclaim December as Christian Heritage Month, in accordance with By-law No. 24-1772, Section 3.

AND FURTHER THAT the Municipality may post appropriate content on its social media platforms to acknowledge the event or related matters.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Christian Music Festival has requested the proclamation of December as Christian Heritage Month, as outlined in the attached letter received on October 22, 2024. This request conflicts with the Municipality's Flag and Proclamation Policy (By-law No. 24-1772, Section 3), which prohibits religious endorsements.

**BACKGROUND**

The Christian Music Festival submitted a formal request for December to be proclaimed as Christian Heritage Month. Their request emphasizes the significant historical and cultural contributions of Christianity to Canada and notes the absence of any formal recognition compared to other religious and cultural groups as per attached letter (date June 24 received October 10, 2024).

The Municipality's Flag and Proclamation Policy, established under By-law No. 24-1772, specifically states in Section 3: *"The Municipality of Temagami will only display flags or issue proclamations that reflect its principles of neutrality, inclusivity, and respect for cultural diversity. The policy strictly excludes political, religious, or commercial endorsements."*

## **ANALYSIS**

- **Policy Conflict:** The request directly violates By-law No. 24-1772, Section 3, which excludes political, religious, or commercial endorsements.
- **Inclusivity:** Recognizing a single religion may undermine the Municipality's commitment to cultural diversity.
- **Precedent Concerns:** Approval may lead to challenges in maintaining neutrality for future requests.

## **CONCLUSION**

The request for the proclamation of December as Christian Heritage Month conflicts with the Municipality's Flag and Proclamation Policy, which prohibits religious endorsements. Respectfully denying the request upholds the Municipality's commitment to neutrality and inclusivity while allowing opportunities to support broader, inclusive initiatives celebrating cultural diversity.

**Respectfully Submitted**

**Laala Jahanshahloo**



## CHRISTIAN MUSIC FESTIVAL

*Celebrating faith and freedom since 1867*

June 2024

Good day,

On behalf of the Christian Music Festival, we would like to welcome you to be a part of our campaign to have the month of December recognized across Canada as Christian Heritage Month.

Christianity is the most followed religion in our country, with more than half of the Canadian population identifying as members of the Christian faith. The *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* even mentions God in its very first sentence. However, despite days, weeks and even months being dedicated to other religions and heritages, there is no such recognition for the Christian faith in Canada. As proud citizens of this diverse and culturally rich nation, we believe it is important to recognize and celebrate the contributions of all religious and cultural groups.

We are seeking the assistance of members of municipal, provincial, and federal governments across Canada to make our dream a reality. Please provide us with information on how proclamations can be made within your jurisdiction, recognizing Christian Heritage Month in December.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us at the email below. You can also reach us through our consultant, Jeremy Beamer of GTA Strategies, at 416-499-4588 ext. 2 or at [jeremy@gtastrategies.com](mailto:jeremy@gtastrategies.com).

Together, we can help further the diverse cultural landscape of this great nation.

Sincerely,

*Molly Banerjee*

Molly Banerjee  
CEO Christian Music Festival  
[www.ChristianMusicFestival.org](http://www.ChristianMusicFestival.org)