

Appendix C – Let's Talk Consultation

As requested by Council, consultation for the flag policy included community groups that have displayed flags, those expressing interest in displaying flags and input from the Diversity Inclusion Equity and Justice committee.

Organizations responding (alphabetically):

- Association des communautés francophones de l'Ontario (ACFOWECK)
Windsor-Essex-Chatham-Kent
- Chatham-Kent Gay Pride Association
- Childhood Cancer Awareness
- Community Living Wallaceburg
- Ink Stained Wretches
- Mental Health Network of Chatham-Kent
- Right to Life Kent
- Royal Canadian Legion , Br. 18 , Wallaceburg
- Royal Canadian Legion Branch 642

Feedback or comments provided:

I agree with the policy you as a governing body must have fail safes in place. You have always been supportive of our "Legion Week" and "Poppy Campaign" flag raising. It is a small ceremony but the representation from the Municipality and the Emergency Services has always been a key part and means a lot to our membership.

We request flags to be raised during Legion week in September and during the Poppy Campaign from the last Friday in October til November 11th. The Poppy campaign raises funds to support programs for veterans and their families who are in need.

It is well written, I would like more clarity on what is meant by "direct relationship" with the municipality. Does it refer to receiving funding from the municipality or support from the municipality? page 3 b) Currently we fill out a special events application form for our flag raising event, will this policy eliminate that? see page 3 C

Policy looks well written to me and clearly explains the process. (I've request a childhood cancer flag be raised the last couple of years to mark Childhood cancer awareness in September and have with no issues). I just ask that once the policy is approved that all current/previous flag raiser requests get an email stating the new policy is in effect. As my request would be a yearly one asked for in January rather than in August. Thank you

The policy only speaks to the Chatham Municipal Centre. We are from Wallaceburg and raise our flag in Wallaceburg. 2. (e.) is ambiguous and needs further clarification: is 14 days the response time from the Manager of Corporate Communications OR is does it

reference the maximum length of time the flag can be flown? 3. (k.) A Report to Council is a lengthy process. If a request must be made 4 weeks in advance to the Manager, this leaves insufficient time for promotional planning & implementation. 4. 7.3 (iii)"a timely manner" needs to be defined (i.e. within two business days

We support this policy, with 2 questions that we wish to have some clarity around. 1. (h) indicates that an organization's flag shall be flown no more than once a year. Does this mean that only 1 flag request from CKGPA will be entertained? or that 1 rainbow flag for pride week in August and 1 trans flag for transawareness week in November as they are different and significant dates of remembrance and celebration. 2. Traditionally, the Municipality has raised both Rainbow Pride flags and Trans Awareness flags at 6 municipal centres across Chatham-Kent. Does this policy now restrict flag raisings only to the Community pole in Chatham? Will flag raising requests be entertained at other Municipal Centres in the smaller communities? Thank you for this opportunity to review and respond to the flag raising policy.

The flag selection does not seem to be a transparent decision. All flag flying requests should be directed to all of Council. If an individual Councillor feels a flag should be flown, that request should be brought to the entire Council and a democratic decision should be voted upon.

The Franco-Ontarian flag consists of two bands of green and white. The first band is mid green with a white fleur-de-lys in the middle, while the second band is white with a stylized green trillium in the middle. • The green represents the summer months, while the white represents the winter months. The trillium is the floral emblem of Ontario, while the fleur-de-lys represents the Francophone heritage of the Franco-Ontarian community. • The Legislative Assembly of Ontario legally recognized the flag as the emblem of the Ontario French-speaking community in the Franco-Ontarian Emblem Act, 2001.<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/01f05> • On September 21, 2020, Ontario Parliament passed Bill 182, An Act to amend the Franco-Ontarian Emblem Act, 2001 <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-42/session-1/bill-182> proposed by MPP Natalia Kusendova (Mississauga Centre), to designate the Franco-Ontarian flag as an official emblem of Ontario. It received Royal Assent and became law on September 24, 2020. • The Franco-Ontarian flag was raised on the Courtesy Flagpole on September 25, 2020 as in past years to mark Le Jour des Franco-Ontariens et des Franco-Ontariennes. • In March 2021, a motion moved by MPP Lucille Collard (Ottawa-Vanier) recommending to have the Franco-Ontarian flag displayed permanently in the Legislative Chamber and on the grounds of the Legislature passed with unanimous consent. • For more information about the Franco-Ontarian flag and the Franco-Ontarian community, please visit the Ministry of Francophone Affairs website. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/franco-ontarian-history#section-3> Furthermore, the municipality of Chatham-Kent is one of the designated area of the province under the French Language Services Act to provide French services. <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90f32> Based on these facts above, it is recommended the Franco-Ontarian flag be flown permanently, on their own flagpole at the Civic Centre

Should be able to fly a flag that doesn't just impact Chatham Kent. It could be like for a day, like World Press Freedom day which impacts democracy worldwide.

Comments received from Diversity Inclusion Equity and Justice Committee:

For both the Flag Protocol Procedure and Bridge Lighting Policy:

- should be better aligned/mirror each other in terms of process.
- Include a definition section e.g. what is politically motivated?
- Focus on the event or issue when making decisions rather than the organization.
- Enable the same organization to raise a flag or light the bridge for different events or issues.
- Racism is called out specifically – what about other forms of discrimination or oppression? For example, sexism, xenophobia, homophobia, transphobia. Should it reference any form of discrimination generally instead?
- As framed, it seems as though the Mayor can also make decisions outside the scope of the policies – is that accurate?

Specific to the Flag Protocol Procedure

- The DEIJ Committee is not in support of limiting the time a flag can be raised to 14 days to include, for example, monthly long awareness events. How could the policy allow for this?
- The policy should outline how competing requests will be handled.
- The DEIJ Committee did not support allowing organization's to only raise a flag once per year. This will be limiting in our community where there may only be one organization that covers multiple communities or issues. The DEIJ Committee recommends focusing on the issue/event instead of the organization.
- DEIJ Committee members were opposed to Council having final say, which could lead to politicization of, for example, issues or events raising awareness related to equity-deserving communities specifically and groups protected by the Ontario Human Rights Code. The DEIJ Committee recommended looking at other options to resolve appeals or disputes.
- Include information about what timeframe requesting groups should expect a response by.
- Could the Municipality proactively raise any flags in good faith, to honour recognized days as is allowed for in the Bridge Lighting Policy?
- Could we have flag raisings in outlying communities to enable rural community members to participate?

Specific to Bridge Lighting Procedure

- Outcomes section - Committee members wondered what a fair, inclusive, and equitable manner looks like in this procedure.
- DEIJ Committee members appreciated that the Municipality would have the ability to initiate lighting and the use of National Day of Truth and Reconciliation as an example.
- 6.5. iic and 6.5 iii The Committee felt we need to be clear about what we mean in terms of religious – for example, some may see events as secular whereas others may see them as religious.