

EX6.21.29

May 24, 2011



Toronto City Council Executive
Toronto City Councillors
City Hall, 100 Queen St.
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Councillor:

Toronto's labour movement has been a consistent supporter and advocate for the rights of the LGBT community. From negotiating some of the first human rights clauses to include sexual orientation, to supporting legal challenges against restrictions on benefits for gay partners, labour has long recognized the need to challenge the discrimination too often faced by our neighbours, our children and our workplace sisters and brothers.

Unions and union activists have been marching in the Pride Parade since its inception, and continue to participate to show our support for efforts of the community to gain equality and to celebrate the victories gained so far. The tremendous spirit exhibited every year in the Pride events have become a hallmark of the Toronto we should all be proud of. Like many others, we also appreciate the significant economic impact of the Pride events – well over \$100 million generated for local businesses each year.

The unfortunate controversy over who should and shouldn't be allowed to march in the parade has allowed some individuals to launch an attack on Pride as an organization and as a public event. In the last year, the organizers have taken extraordinary steps to review all aspects of the event, and to create a constructive approach to dealing with differences. This should allay any legitimate concerns regarding the nature of the Pride Parade in the future.

The Labour Council urges City Council to respect the immense contribution made to our city by its LGBT community and its premier public event. We ask that the City continue to provide funding to Pride Toronto, and assist in every way possible to ensure the successful hosting of World Pride in 2014.

Sincerely,

John Cartwright
President