Marilyn Toft - For distribution to Mayor and Councillors - Re: Toronto Anti-Discrimination Policy

From:

Amy Casipullai <acasipullai@ocasi.org>

To:

<clerk@toronto.ca>

Date:

7/15/2013 12:55 PM

Subject: CC:

For distribution to Mayor and Councillors - Re: Toronto Anti-Discrimination Rose Debbie Douglas <ddouglas@ocasi.org>

Attachments: Joint_Statement_Anti-Discrimination_Policy_15_July2013.pdf

Dear Ms. Toft

On behalf of Debbie Douglas, Executive Director - OCASI - Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants, I am sending you a Joint Statement on City of Toronto Anti-Discrimination Policy, with 59 signatories from the City of Toronto, for distribution to His Worship Mayor Rob Ford and Members of Toronto City Council.

Please see below for the Joint Statement. The statement and list of signatories are attached.

Joint Statement on City of Toronto Anti-Discrimination Policy

July 15, 2013

The City of Toronto's Anti-discrimination Policy is important. It establishes the city's commitment to fairness and equity and is a standard to which groups and organizations receiving city funding must comply.

In June 2011 Council directed the City Manager to review and update the policy. A revised policy was submitted in May 2012. Since that time some Councillors have blocked approval of this policy asking that special language be included to ban political speech.

City staff and lawyers, and community representatives have repeatedly explained that banning such speech violates the protection of freedom of expression under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

At the June 13 2013 Council meeting, debate on the policy was once again postponed until July. Several redundant, vague and confusing amendments to the policy have been attached by Councillors.

We, members of designated groups protected under the policy, ask Council to approve the city's revised Antidiscrimination Policy without further delay and without unnecessary amendments.

Amy Casipullai, Senior Coordinator, Policy and Communications

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OCASI Online:

www.ocasi.org | www.settlement.org | www.settlementatwork.org

Expert on Immigrant and Refugee Issues. Advocate for the Immigrant-serving Sector.

OCASI is an LGBTQ positive space and strives to be barrier-free.

Joint Statement on City of Toronto Anti-Discrimination Policy July 15, 2013

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Signatories:

	Ward	Organization
1	02 Etobicoke North	Community MicroSkills Development Centre
2	03 Etobicoke Centre	Polycultural Immigrant & Community Services
3	07 York West	Elspeth Heyworth Centre for Women
4	11 York South-Weston	Northwood Neighbourhood Services
5	13 Parkdale-High Park	CUIAS Immigrant Services
6	16 Eglinton-Lawrence	Davenport-Perth Neighbourhood and Community Health Centre
7	16 Eglinton-Lawrence	United Jewish People's Order-Toronto
8	18 Davenport	AIDS ACTION NOW!
9	18 Davenport	South Asian Women's Centre
10	19 Trinity-Spadina	ACCES Employment
11	19 Trinity-Spadina	Barbra Schlifer Clinic
12	19 Trinity-Spadina	Central Toronto Community Health Centres
13	20 Trinity-Spadina	Asian Community Aids Services (ACAS)
14	20 Trinity-Spadina	Canadian Centre for Language & Cultural Studies, Inc.
15	20 Trinity-Spadina	Chinese Canadian National Council - Toronto Chapter
16	20 Trinity-Spadina	ERDCO Ethno-Racial People with Disabilities Coalition of Ontario
17	20 Trinity-Spadina	Hispanic Development Council
18	20 Trinity-Spadina	METRAC (the Metropolitan Action Committee on Violence Against Women and
		Children)
		(Note: In addition METRAC wants to underline that further delay in approving the
		Anti-Discrimination Policy may negatively impact groups at higher risk of
		discrimination and may undermine Toronto's historical leadership in implementing
L	<u></u>	anti-racism/anti-discrimination policies.)

19	20 Trinity-Spadina	Toronto Workforce Innovation Group
20	20 Trinity-Spadina	Urban Alliance on Race Relations
21	21 St. Paul's	Las Perlas Productions Inc
22	23 Willowdale	CARE Centre for Internationally Educated Nurses
23	26 Don Valley West	Toronto and York Region Labour Council
24	27 Toronto Centre-Rosedale	Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention (ASAAP)
25	27 Toronto Centre-Rosedale	Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture
26	27 Toronto Centre-Rosedale	CAW Sam Gindin Chair in Social Justice and Democracy - Ryerson University
27	27 Toronto Centre-Rosedale	Charity-Ann Hannan (Coordinator at Ryerson Centre for Immigration and
		Settlement, Ryerson University)
28	27 Toronto Centre-Rosedale	Eliza Chandler (Course Instructor at School of Disability Studies, Ryerson
20	27 Toronto Centre-Rosedale	University) Metro Toronto Chinese and Southeast Asian Legal Clinic
29		Queer Ontario
30	27 Toronto Centre-Rosedale	
31	27 Toronto Centre-Rosedale	Ryerson Centre for Immigration & Settlement
32	27 Toronto Centre-Rosedale	Social Planning Toronto Times Change Women's Employment Service
33	27 Toronto Centre-Rosedale	(Note: The Collective of Times Change Women's Employment Service passed a
		resolution to endorse the call to the Toronto City Council to approve the City's
		revised Anti-discrimination Policy)
34	27 Toronto Centre-Rosedale	Women's Health in Women's Hands
35	27 Toronto Centre-Rosedale	YWCA Toronto A Turning Point for Women
36	28 Toronto Centre-Rosedale	ARCH Disability Law Centre
37	28 Toronto Centre-Rosedale	Assaulted Women's and Children's Counsellor/Advocate Program - George Brown
		College
38	28 Toronto Centre-Rosedale	Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention
39	28 Toronto Centre-Rosedale	Egale Canada
40	28 Toronto Centre-Rosedale	Project Re-Vision: Mobilizing New Meanings of Disability and Difference
41	28 Toronto Centre-Rosedale	Rainbow Health Ontario
42	28 Toronto Centre-Rosedale	S.E.A.S.Centre
43	29 Toronto-Danforth	Accessible Toronto
44	30 Toronto-Danforth	Eastview Neighbourhood Community Centre
45	30 Toronto-Danforth	Margaret's Housing and Community Supports Services Inc.
46	30 Toronto-Danforth	Newcomer Women's Services Toronto
47	33 Don Valley East	AWIC Community & Social Services
48	38 Scarborough Centre	Catholic Crosscultural Services
49	38 Scarborough Centre	Settlement Assistance and Family Support Services (SAFSS)
50	All Wards	Blackness Yes! Collective
51	All Wards	Colour of Poverty - Colour of Change
52	All Wards	Committee for Accessible AIDS Treatment (CAAT)
53	All Wards	el-Tawhid Juma Circle: Toronto Unity Mosque
54	All Wards	Independent Jewish Voices Canada
55	All Wards	Jewish Voices Toronto
56	All Wards	Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants
57	All Wards	Salaam: Queer Muslim Community
58	All Wards	Toronto Neighbourhood Centres (Note: The Board passed a motion to endorse the statement)
59	All Wards	Trans Lobby Group