



Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter
全加華人協進會 (平權會) 多倫多分會

215 Spadina Avenue, Suite 124, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5T 2C7 · Tel: 416-596-0833 · Fax: 416-979-3936
Web: www.ccnctoronto.ca · Email: info@ccnctoronto.ca

Friday October 26, 2012

To the Mayor and the City Councillors of Toronto City Hall,

We are writing this letter in regards to the anti-discrimination policy issue that has come up recently at the City.

As a long-term recipient of funding from the City, we have very happily signed the Declaration of Anti-Discrimination for as long as it's been a requirement. As a social justice based organization, that fights discrimination, particularly racism, as part of our mandate, this is a core value that we hold and practice since the organization began 32 years ago.

With that said, we are extremely disturbed by the attempts of certain groups to influence the anti-discrimination policy to exclude certain types of dissent. Protest is not oppression. Expressing dissent with the status quo at a public event such as Pride Toronto is not oppression nor is it counter to the City's anti-discrimination policy. This is clearly a misuse of an important city policy on behalf of a political lobby group. What we are asking for is a procedurally proper and open public consultation.

There is draft language that speaks about including "anything which shows a lack of respect for all persons," which indicates a complete lack of understand of the purpose of an anti-discrimination policy, which is to focus on protected groups which do not hold power in the mainstream culture. Such language trivializes real discrimination faced by marginal populations.

May Lui

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Interim Executive Director, on behalf of Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter
215 Spadina Ave, Suite 124, Toronto, ON M5T 2C7
416.596.0833 ext 1