

SENATE



SÉNAT

EX2.11.2

The Honourable Nancy Ruth, C.M.  
Senator

L'honorable Nancy Ruth, C.M.  
Sénateure

January 14, 2015

Office of the Mayor  
City Hall  
2nd Floor,  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Mayor Tory:

*John,*

I am writing about [Notice of Motion MM 55.18](#) [O Canada] which was deferred from the Toronto City Council meeting of August 25, 2014.

I ask that you delay consideration of this motion until a decision is made on [Bill C-624](#), which is currently in Parliament, coming up for Second Reading in February/March, 2015.

Motion MM 55.18 recommended that, "City Council request the Government of Canada to change 'O Canada' to be gender inclusive, thereby including all Canadians." This motion was moved by Councillor Ceta Ramkhalawansingh, seconded by Councillor Pam McConnell. Bill C-624 provides a proposal similar to that suggested in MM55.18.

The Councillors' proposal was brought forward to support the campaign, "[Sing All of Us](#)" and has the support of many community leaders, including Margaret Atwood, Kim Campbell, Hugh Segal, Jully Black, Jonathan Kay, Carolyn Bennett, Hal & Duncan Jackman, Belinda Stronach, John Fraser, Margaret McCain, Paul Copeland, Vivienne Poy, Ceta Ramkhalawansingh and Historica Canada.

Bill C-624, moved by Mauril Bélanger (Ottawa-Vanier) and seconded by Carolyn Bennett (St. Paul's) proposes to amend the 1980 *National Anthem Act*.

The bill seeks a simple change in the English version only, **two words** to be precise:

"True patriot love in all thy sons command" ... to become  
"True patriot love in all of us command".

Bill C-624 will receive Second Reading in February/March 2015. We are urging that it be passed, and be referred to committee for public hearings.

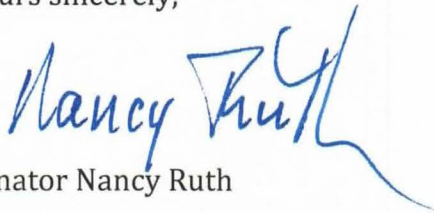
... 2



Given that the matter is about to be considered by the House of Commons, it would be appropriate for Toronto City Council to defer consideration of this Notice of Motion.

In the meantime, I urge you and all City of Toronto Councillors to urge their Members of Parliament to vote for Bill C-624 on Second Reading. There is every reason to make this change before Toronto welcomes the world to the Pan American/Pan Para Games, and we celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Canada. Canada is just **two words** away from an anthem of equality and inclusion; this is our chance to reflect all our nation's people, as "All Of Us" are equally nation-builders.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nancy Ruth". The signature is stylized, with the first letters of "Nancy" and "Ruth" being large and prominent. There is a long, sweeping flourish at the end of the signature.

Senator Nancy Ruth