

EX2.11.4

January 19, 2015

To: Mayor Tory and
Members, City of Toronto Executive Committee

Re: EX 2.11 – Continuing Toronto City Council’s Leadership on Gender
Inclusion

I support the request made by Senator Nancy Ruth to defer consideration of MM55.18 which was referred from the Council Meeting of August 25, 2014 pending the outcome of Bill C-624.

Over the holiday break, I consulted with organizers of the “Sing All Of Us” campaign and Senator Ruth. Our conclusion was to request the City to defer consideration of MM55.18 until such time as the federal Parliament had concluded its decision-making on Bill C-624.

Our request should not suggest that we have in any way backed off from our support for making the national anthem more inclusive. It is clear however that there isn’t a consensus at this time. More significant is the fact that the proposal has drawn many racist, sexist and anti-immigrant comments and this is indeed sad.

The musings by some have implied that gender equality is not a priority. This view needs to be quashed. Equally troublesome has been the suggestion that Toronto City Council should not get involved in matters which are within the ambit of other orders of government. In my view, this is an absurd position. Toronto City Council has frequently approached both provincial and federal governments to make changes and to introduce new programs for the benefit of the residents of Toronto.

Yours truly,

Ceta Ramkhalawansingh