

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM41.12	ACTION			Ward:All
---------	--------	--	--	----------

Toronto Joining the Rainbow Cities Network - by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Paul Ainslie

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Paul Ainslie, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the City Manager, in consultation with the Director, Equity, Diversity and Human Rights and the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration, and any other divisions as needed, to designate a representative of the municipal administration responsible for LGBTQ2S issues to participate in the Rainbow Cities Network; the designate would be responsible for participating in an annual Rainbow Cities Network meeting, actively contributing to the exchange within the Network, and providing an overview of Toronto's actions and plans with regards to LGBTQ2S policies on an annual basis.
2. City Council reaffirm its commitment to mainstreaming LGBTQ2S issues within its broader work serving the City of Toronto.

Summary

For many years Toronto has been committed to the equality of LGBTQ2S people. The LGBTQ2S communities have grown and developed throughout the City as legal and policy changes at all levels of government have provided a foundation for social and cultural progress and inclusion. Toronto is a regional, national and even international hub for LGBTQ2S people, with thousands of LGBTQ2S newcomers moving to the City on an annual basis. Our City has also become home to many community, social and cultural organizations supporting and serving LGBTQ2S communities, individuals and families. As the global movement for LGBTQ2S inclusive cities continues to grow, there are opportunities for inter-municipal knowledge exchanges and engagement.

This past year has also been a difficult time for many in Toronto's LGBTQ2S communities. The recent murders and missing persons cases – of both gay men and trans women – have impacted many people's sense of safety, security and well-being. There are still gaps to be closed within our own City to ensure that all members of our society experience and feel supported and served by our institutions. Some work is already underway to identify and

address these challenges, but more will need to be done going forward.

The development of a City-wide plan for LGBTQ2S people that is tied to resources at City Hall and part of a global movement for inclusive cities would be a positive message reaffirming Toronto's reputation as a global leader in equality and diversity. It would also advance our existing commitments to building a better society, free of discrimination.

This initiative has already been endorsed by the AIDS Committee of Toronto, the Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention, Asian Community AIDS Services, the Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention, the Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies, the University of Toronto, the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, Community One Foundation, the El-Tawhid Juma Circle Mosque, the Inside Out Film and Video Festival, PFLAG Toronto, Metropolitan Community Church Toronto, Rainbow Railroad, StartProud, The 519, and YWCA Canada.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM41.12