

**Toronto City Hall**  
**100 Queen St W.**  
**Toronto, ON M5H 2N2, Canada**

**March 23, 2026**

**Dear Members of Council,**

The International Center for Human Rights in Iran (ICHR), a Toronto based not for profit organization that reflects the voices of thousands of Iranian Canadians, express its support for Motion MM39.43 regarding the ceremonial raising of the Lion and Sun flag.

As you are aware, ICHR has previously submitted applications to the City seeking approval for a flag-raising ceremony featuring this historic flag. While those applications were not approved, we fully respect the City's policies and processes. We appreciate that this motion provides an opportunity to reconsider this request within a framework of cultural recognition and community inclusion.

We wish to emphasize that this request is not made in relation to any state or government. The Lion and Sun symbol is deeply rooted in Iranian history and civilization, with origins that predate modern states and political systems. For centuries, it has appeared in Persian art, literature, architecture, and cultural expression, reflecting a rich and continuous heritage. As such, it represents not a political entity, but a longstanding cultural identity shared by generations of Persians and Iranians.

For Iranian Canadians today, this flag carries that same meaning. It symbolizes heritage, continuity, and a connection to centuries of artistic and cultural tradition. It is widely present at cultural events, including Nowruz celebrations, festivals, and community gatherings across the Greater Toronto Area, where it is understood as an expression of identity rather than politics.

Recently, we have observed a heightened level of engagement within the Iranian-Canadians, reflecting both cultural pride and concern for loved ones affected by ongoing events abroad. In this context, gestures of recognition by the municipality carry meaningful value, affirming inclusion and belonging.

We note that the motion is framed to align with the City's policies, emphasizing cultural recognition while explicitly avoiding any geopolitical positioning. Similar initiatives in neighbouring municipalities have been implemented successfully and have contributed positively to community cohesion.

ICHR remains committed to working collaboratively with the City of Toronto to ensure that any approved event is conducted respectfully and in full compliance with municipal guidelines.

We respectfully encourage Members of Council to support this motion as a meaningful gesture of cultural recognition, inclusion, and respect for the Iranian-Canadian community.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Sincerely,**

  
Board of Directors

International Center for Human Rights in Iran – Canada