



**Ontario Human
Rights Commission**

Office of the Chief Commissioner
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**Commission ontarienne
des droits de la personne**

Cabinet de la commissaire en chef
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May 2, 2012

Your Worship and Members of Council,

Re: Request for Ontario Human Rights Code Day/Week Proclamation

On June 15, 2012, Ontario will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the *Ontario Human Rights Code*. The *Code* recognizes the dignity and worth of each person and ensures that everyone is free from discrimination and harassment where they live, work and play. Ultimately, its goal is to make sure everyone can reach their full potential and contribute in their communities.

We've seen a lot of change in the past 50 years. We've seen the end of segregation, workplaces opening doors to newcomers and women, public facilities accommodating people with disabilities, and systemic barriers within our institutions starting to be broken down.

To celebrate these accomplishments, to acknowledge the work that still needs to be done, and to make a commitment to creating equitable, inclusive environments that protect and advance human rights, I invite you to join other municipalities across the province in proclaiming June 15th Ontario Human Rights Code Day, or proclaiming the week of June 11 – 15 as Ontario Human Rights Code Week. Attached is some sample wording.

Proclaiming the day or the week gives municipalities an opportunity to encourage all residents to think about how far we have come in 50 years. It can also inspire us all to think about what steps we can collectively take to advance human rights – in our homes, our neighbourhoods and in local government.

If you do plan on proclaiming a human rights day or week, please let us know by May 30, 2012, so that we can acknowledge your commitment to human rights as we celebrate this milestone.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara Hall".

Barbara Hall, B.A, LL.B, Ph.D (hon.)
Chief Commissioner

CCM file # MGT2010-000379

SAMPLE PROCLAMATION FOR ONTARIO *HUMAN RIGHTS CODE* DAY

WHEREAS Ontario has been a leader in protecting and advancing human rights for more than 50 years;

WHEREAS the Ontario *Human Rights Code* was first proclaimed on June 15, 1962;

WHEREAS each person has the right to be free from discrimination and harassment and to reach their full potential – no matter their race, ethnic origin, place of birth, religion, ability level, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or any other status;

WHEREAS protecting human rights reduces tension and conflict and creates an atmosphere of mutual respect and belonging;

WHEREAS municipalities play a critical role in nurturing human rights and creating equitable environments where everyone is included in work and services and able to enjoy the benefits of their community;

WHEREAS each one of us has a role to play in making sure that human rights are respected;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT <the municipality of> does hereby proclaim June 15th Ontario *Human Rights Code* Day.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2012 by:

(Municipality)

(Mayor's signature)