



THE CANADIAN CENTRE FOR
**GENDER+SEXUAL
DIVERSITY**



LE CENTRE CANADIEN DE LA
**DIVERSITÉ DES GENRES
+ DE LA SEXUALITÉ**

C304-440 rue Albert St, Ottawa, ON K1R 5B5 (territoire Algonquin Territory)
La journée rose (13 avril, 2016) | **The Day of Pink** (April 13, 2016)
info@ccgsd-ccdgs.org/ Tel: 613-858-3427

Janet McDougald
Chair, Mississauga Wards 1/7
Peel District School Board
5650 Hurontario St
Mississauga, ON Canada L5R 1C6
Janet.mcdougald@peelsb.com

Re: Amending the current flag policy

Dear Chair McDougald,

This year marks the 40th anniversary of when the late Gilbert Baker created the Rainbow Pride flag to celebrate the diversity of the LGBTQ2+ communities. Gilbert was a personal friend of the Canadian Centre for Gender & Sexual Diversity, and he traveled with us across Canada with us sharing his story of creating a piece of history with youth in Canadian schools. I will never forget how he noted how grateful he was to Canadians for inviting him to speak in elementary and high schools, as it remained something he was never allowed to do in his home country the United States.

The Canadian Centre for Gender & Sexual Diversity is proud to be a partner of Peel District School Board. For year, our team, including myself and Stonewall Veteran, Martin Boyce, have been delighted to share the stories of the LGBTQ2+ community and strategies to creating safer spaces with students, educators and families. The work that the Peel District School Board's faculty has done to create inclusion has been critical in creating safer spaces in the region.

Today I am writing to you to inform you that the Canadian Centre for Gender & Sexual Diversity stands firmly behind students, educators and families who wish to see the Pride Flag raised at schools across the board this June for Pride month.

Representation and cultural inclusivity is important for queer & trans students, staff and families in Canada. Raising the flag sends a message to LGBTQ2+ folks that they are welcome and sends a clear message that oppression and discrimination will not be tolerated.

The politicization of this issue, over the last few weeks, means that the board needs to take a clear stand and say clearly that LGBTQ2+ youth, faculty, and families are loved, valued, and that they have a safe place in Peel District School Board schools.

We hope that you will make the best decision in this matter and look forward to continuing to working with you in the future.

We would also like to take a moment to applaud all those advocates who wore pink and shared their stories about the importance of raising the Pride flag at schools. Their voices truly articulated why this remains such an important issue.

Thanks!

Mr. Jeremy Dias
(pronouns: they, them, os, ol)

vosre directeur général | your Executive Director
Le Centre canadien de la diversité des genres & de la sexualité |
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