
TO: Mayor Kogon and Members of Council

SUBMITTED BY: Sharon Bristol, Director, Community Living

DATE: March 20, 2023

SUBJECT: *Requests for Proclamations and Flag Raising Ceremonies Policy*

ORIGIN: The Town of Amherst has been undergoing a systematic review of its policies to determine any need for update, repeal or revisions.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY: MGA 47 (1) The council shall make decisions in the exercise of its powers and duties by resolution, by policy or by by-law.

RECOMMENDATION: The Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Committee is recommending that Council forward the amended Request for Proclamations and Flag Raising Ceremonies Policy without the stipulation that "Flags to honor Acadian Day on August 15th, and Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21st will not require formal requests" to the March 27, 2023 meeting of Council for approval.

BACKGROUND: The following motion was passed at the November Committee of the Whole

Moved By Deputy Mayor Landry Seconded By Councillor Davidson
That Council forward the proposed amendments to the Requests for Proclamations and Flag Raising Ceremonies Policy #10350-14 to the Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Committee for review.

DISCUSSION: The Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Committee met on March 2, 2023 to review the proposed amendments to the policy. They felt strongly that by singling out two groups (Acadian and Indigenous) who would not have to follow the process as stated in the proposed amendments to the revised draft policy, that this in effect is not inclusive and equitable to all groups, and that all groups should have to apply. Also wording around the flown flags conditions was requested to be changed to make it more understandable, as noted in the attached amended policy. The Committee passed the following motion:

That the policy be amended to remove the line: "Flags to honor Acadian Day on the August 15th, and Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21st will not require formal requests", requiring that all peoples will need to request their own Flag Raising, and further that staff take steps to better educate the public on how to request a Flag Raising.





COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CDR# 2023022

Date: March 20, 2023

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: None.

SOCIAL JUSTICE IMPLICATIONS: Community groups and individuals will have inclusive and equitable access to this policy.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS: None

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: Continued engagement with our community at large to ensure everyone is aware of the process to have proclamations and flag raisings conducted in the town.

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1 Send back to committee for further assessment
- 2 Defer to next month

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proposed Amended Requests for Proclamations and Flag Raising Ceremonies Policy as recommended by the IDE Committee
2. Requests for Proclamations and Flag Raising Ceremonies Policy with proposed amendments November COW

Report prepared by: Sharon Bristol

Report and Financial approved by:

