



L'Association des francophones
de la région de York Inc.

Mai 18th, 2016

Mayor Tony Van Bynen
Town of Newmarket
PO Box 328, Main Station
Newmarket, Ontario, L3Y 4X7

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

"L'Association des francophones de la région de York" (L'AFRY) is proud to celebrate in a special way the anniversary of the arrival of Étienne Brûlé and the presence of francophone in York Region. We would appreciate if the Franco-Ontarian flag could be raised at the Administrative Centre and a proclamation be issued for Franco-Ontarian Day, on September 23rd. This historical celebration of the flag is a very important event for all Franco-Ontarians in the province and your Town. We are very proud that our flag has been officially recognized by Queen's Park on June 21st, 2001.

Today, after four centuries of evolution, Ontario's francophone community includes 582,690 people, or 4.8% of the total population of the province (according to Statistics Canada 2006 census). It is the second largest Francophone community in Canada, after Quebec.

For the record, the Government of Ontario released a statement on April 26, 2010 that "*The Franco-Ontarian Day Act adopted unanimously by the Legislative Assembly proclaims September 25 of each year as Franco-Ontarian Day. This Day will, every year, officially recognize the contribution of Ontario's Francophone community to the cultural, historical, social, economic and political life of the province.*"

Several of the region's towns and cities did agree to raise our flag and issue a proclamation last year and we are hopeful that the Town of Newmarket will also commit to raising our flag and issuing a proclamation this year. It would be our pleasure to deliver a flag on simple request. Please feel free to contact Marie Martel by phone at 905-727-4631 ext. 76550, or by email at mariemartel@afry.ca.

Yours truly,

Alain Beaudoin, President of the Board of Directors