

SUGGESTED WORDING:

Proclamation

Family Dispute Resolution Week

November 21 to 25, 2016

WHEREAS:

- 80% of those in Family Court are self-represented, cannot afford a lawyer, many whose first language is not English and of low income. Many cases involve mental health challenges, family violence, and limited access to legal and dispute resolution options.
- Dealing with the trauma of dysfunctional divorce and family breakdown can affect children for years and even decades
- There is a dire need for citizens of Newmarket, indeed Ontarians, to gain access to supportive services during the difficult time of separation and divorce.
- Family Dispute Resolution week will raise awareness of non-adversarial options including mediation, arbitration, collaborative practice, free/subsidized family mediation funded by the province and the many agencies providing supportive divorce-related services.
- Along with being less adversarial and less harmful to parents and their children, these means of dispute resolution address problems like addictions, mental health issues, safety and family violence that traditional litigation processes often do not, and are often free or subsidized;
- Dealing effectively and expeditiously with family breakdown is in the best interests of the City of Newmarket to ensure the well being of our next generation.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Mayor Tony Van Bynen on behalf of Newmarket City Council, do hereby proclaim **November 21 to 25, 2016** as "**Family Dispute Resolution Week**" in the City of Newmarket.

