

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: January 10, 2025 1:45 PM
To: Clerks <clerks@newmarket.ca>
Subject: Attn. Simon Motion submission for December as Christian Heritage Month

Hi Simon,

Thanks again for your patience.

Here is a revised submission that replaces the previous submissions:

My viewpoint for the motion to designate December as Christian Heritage Month is not against the Christian faith, which many in my extended family practice, but rather about reflecting on why we need a month to recognize Christianity when many faiths also have

important celebrations in December.

I worry this could be seen as a colonial assertion by the dominant culture. While other faiths may not ask for December due to its significance to Christianity and potential backlash, I question whether we should claim it for ourselves.

Why wasn't a Christian Heritage Month assigned from the start of these designations in Canada? The original intent of heritage recognition was to support smaller groups within a dominant culture; Christianity is the dominant religion.

Is it not hoped over time that all faiths and cultures will feel woven into the overall fabric of Canada, as well as in tandem with the belief systems of First Nations, and that eventually recognition months will have served their purpose and no longer be needed?

Christianity is already a significant and lasting thread of Canada's fabric; the churches on Main Street alone demonstrate this, as well as its presence in foundational documents like the British North America Act. Given this, I don't see why a dedicated Christian Heritage

Month is necessary, especially when society already has clear ways and communication to celebrate and acknowledge it. If Christianity were a minority faith in the future, it would make sense, but not now.

I wonder if we could approach this differently, perhaps declaring December "All Faiths Month," encompassing Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism, Judaism, and the Winter Solstice for Indigenous Peoples? In this way Christian recognition is included along with all the other faiths and culturally significant traditions.

Perhaps more dialogue and deliberation is also an option. I'm grateful to live in a community and country where we can debate these issues, and I appreciate the challenges they present to Council.

Sincerely,

Melanie Duckett-Wilson
resident of Newmarket