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 RICHMOND HILL COMMUNITY SUPPORT CENTRE | 10155 YONGE STREET | RICHMOND HILL, ONTARIO L4C 1T5 | TEL 905 884 0613
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October 23, 2013

Mayor Tony Van Bynen
 Town of Newmarket
 395 Mulock Drive, Station Main
 Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X7

Your Honour,

CITY OF NEWMARKET			MAYOR'S OFFICE		
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COMMISSIONER					
DEPARTMENT					
CLERKS					
CONCERNS					

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of the AIDS Committee of York Region to request to join us in commemorating December 1 as **World AIDS Day**. To this effect, we request you to:

- Issue a proclamation from the Town of Newmarket declaring December 1 as **World AIDS Day**.
- Share a photo of you wearing the enclosed red ribbon for our social media campaign **Red for Change: Wear It, Hold It, Show It for World AIDS Day**. We will widely share this photo on our Facebook page and Twitter feeds during World AIDS Awareness Week (November 24-30) and on World AIDS Day. This will showcase your solidarity with people living with this chronic illness in your constituency.

Held on December 1 each year, World AIDS Day provides an opportunity for people worldwide to unite and show their support for people living with HIV/AIDS, to commemorate those who have passed away, and to eliminate stigma and discrimination by raising awareness about HIV/AIDS.

Anyone can be affected by HIV/AIDS regardless of religion, age, class, race, culture or sexual orientation. It is estimated that more than 27,000 people in Ontario are living with HIV. In York Region, there are approximately 420 people who are aware of their status living with HIV. However, many people remain unaware of their HIV status (almost 26 percent nationwide) because they have never been tested.

The AIDS Committee of York Region is the only local non-profit organization that provides life changing supports to people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. Many people living with HIV are isolated due to the experience of stigma and discrimination that is compounded by a lack of awareness in the community. We offer innovative programs, educate our community, and advocate for those impacted by HIV/AIDS to help them come out of the margins and reclaim their role as engaged and valued members of our community.

Your exceptional stewardship of various causes has left a great imprint on our work in the community. Your participation in World AIDS Day activities in York Region will help to enhance our awareness efforts on behalf of all persons throughout your community living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. We are finalizing our program and launching our media campaign, so I would appreciate your kind and prompt response.

Kind regards,

R. Bhardwaj
 Radha Bhardwaj, Executive Director

Providing support and dignified care to those living with and affected by HIV/AIDS in York Region.