

E Deschambeault - Civic Pride.

From: 28(1) Personal
To: <rmarkewi@cityregina.com>
Date: 21/Dec/2001 4:30 AM
Subject: Civic Pride.

To His Worship, the Mayor, and all aldermen of Regina,

My comments are submitted to you respectfully, and without malice. As you are no doubt aware, the reputation of your city was tarnished internationally, earlier this year, when, your mayor "officially" proclaimed "Heterosexual Pride Day". At best, this may have been seen as a good-natured spoof on Gay Pride Celebrations, held annually, throughout the civilized world. Anyone I have spoken to, however, from 4 European countries, all across the US, and Mexico, including business leaders, regional and federal politicians, and many notable human rights groups, interpreted Mayor Fiocco's action as an astonishingly ill-informed act of extreme right-wing hatred, and bigotry.... Something one might have expected from 1950's Alabama, or Mississippi. Despite the indifference, or more likely, hostility, from you folks, I wanted to voice these observations, before this year ended. I also have a sense of loyalty to the people of the Canadian prairies, having grown up in Manitoba. For the last 26 years, however, I have lived in B.C., southern California, and the state of Hawaii.

On a lighter note, I will take this opportunity to wish you all, Seasons Greetings, and Best Wishes for 2002. Thank you for your attention.

28(1) Personal

From: Carol Edwards
To: 28(1) Personal Internet.Regina Groupwise Domain1
Date: 10/12/01 10:44am
Subject: Re: Mayor Pat Fiacco

Dear 28(1)
Personal

Mayor Fiacco received your e-mail correspondence regarding the "Heterosexual Family Pride Day" proclamation that was issued earlier this year. On his behalf, I also wanted to provide you with some background on this proclamation, and let you know that Mayor Fiacco also proclaimed "Lesbian, Bisexual and Gay Pride Week" in June, as has been done for the last several years.

City Council's Procedure Bylaw authorizes the Mayor to issue proclamations. The provisions in the bylaw state that, subject to The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code, the Mayor may approve the proclamation submitted provided it does not:

- (a) promote any commercial business;
- (b) involve any person or organization which promotes hatred of any person or class of persons or otherwise involves illegal activity; or
- (c) contain any inflammatory, obscene or libelous statement.

Approximately 60 to 70 proclamations are approved each year in Regina for various groups and events. In the past, proclamations were approved, based on the words submitted by the group. The groups then publish the proclamation in local newspapers at their own cost for promotional purposes. This process has been a longstanding practice which predates the present Mayor.

The "Heterosexual Family Pride Day" proclamation was signed and issued in the words submitted. Mayor Fiacco approved that proclamation based on freedom of expression, the absence of anything illegal or specifically indicating hatred. Since approving the proclamation, the Mayor has received correspondence from a number of individuals who feel that the proclamation is worded too strongly.

Based on the feedback received, Mayor Fiacco changed the policy for the wording of proclamations. Effective July 1st, 2001, all proclamations approved by the Mayor have been issued with standard wording chosen by the Mayor.

Please let us know if you require any further information.

Carol Edwards,
Committee Services Co-ordinator
City Clerk's Office
P.O. Box 1790
REGINA, SK S4P 3C8
(306) 777-7185

>>> 28(1) Personal 09/28/01 06:01pm >>>

Name is 28(1) Personal
Email is

Comments are Mayor Fiacco,
I have just learned that you initiated a 'heterosexual-pride day' in Regina. I would like to hear directly from you if this is in fact true, and if so, can you please tell me more about it? To me, the implications of this day are similar to the idea of a 'white-pride day.' (obviously a discriminatory implication) Am I wrong in my assumptions? Do you support anti-gay sentiments? I would appreciate your response to this message. I would like to be able to decide for myself if I will vote for you in the future- based on the facts, rather than gossip.

28(1) Personal

June 15, 2001

Mayor Pat Fiacco
Mayor of Regina

Regina City Council
Regina, Saskatchewan

To the Mayor and the Town Council:

Thank you very much for declaring June 18, 2001 as Heterosexual Family Pride Day in Regina.

I am delighted that your council has taken such a stand for the family. Truly, the family needs as much support and promotion as possible.

Thank you so much.

I hope you will have a wonderful parade on June 18.

Sincerely,
28(1) Personal



city of Regina

May 22, 2001
File No. 0450 PRO

Mr. Tom Graham
CUPE Saskatchewan
1680C Albert Street
REGINA SK S4P 2S6

Dear Mr. Graham:

Re: Proclamation - Heterosexual Family Pride Day

Mayor Fiacco received your correspondence regarding the "Heterosexual Family Pride Day" proclamation. On his behalf, I want to provide you with some background on this proclamation, and let you know that Regina also expects to be proclaiming "Lesbian, Bisexual and Gay Pride Week" in June, as has been done for the last several years.

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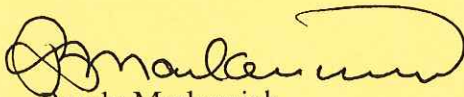
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Based on the feedback received, Mayor Fiacco intends to change the policy for the wording of proclamations. Effective July 1st, 2001, all proclamations approved by the Mayor will be issued with standard wording chosen by the Mayor.

I hope this clarifies the background on our process for proclamations. Thank you for taking the time to write. Please let us know if you require any further information.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Markewich", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Randy Markewich
City Clerk

/dlk

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FAXED
May 28/01

May 22, 2001
File No. 0450 PRO

FAXED: (613) 237-5508

Francois Bellemare
CUPE National Pink Triangle Committee

Dear Francois:

Re: Proclamation - Heterosexual Family Pride Day

Mayor Fiacco received your correspondence regarding the "Heterosexual Family Pride Day" proclamation. On his behalf, I want to provide you with some background on this proclamation, and let you know that Regina also expects to be proclaiming "Lesbian, Bisexual and Gay Pride Week" in June, as has been done for the last several years.

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Yours truly,

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Randy Markewich
City Clerk

/dlk

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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

Queen Elizabeth II Court • Box 1790 • Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 3C8 • Ph: (306) 777-7262 • Fax: (306) 777-6809

FAXED
May 28/01

May 22, 2001
File No. 0450 PRO

FAXED: (613) 237-5508

Sinda Cathcart
CUPE National Pink Triangle Committee

Dear Sinda:

Re: Proclamation – Heterosexual Family Pride Day

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Yours truly,

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Randy Markewich
City Clerk

/dlk

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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

Queen Elizabeth II Court • Box 1790 • Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 3C8 • Ph: (306) 777-7262 • Fax: (306) 777-6809

FAXED
May 22/01
8:55am
FAXED
11:45am

May 22, 2001
File No. 0450 PRO

FAXED: (905) 459-9245

28(1) Personal

Dear 28(1) Personal

Re: Proclamation - Heterosexual Family Pride Day

Mayor Fiacco received your correspondence regarding the "Heterosexual Family Pride Day" proclamation. On his behalf, I want to provide you with some background on this proclamation, and let you know that Regina also expects to be proclaiming "Lesbian, Bisexual and Gay Pride Week" in June, as has been done for the last several years.

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May 22, 2001

Page 2

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Yours truly,

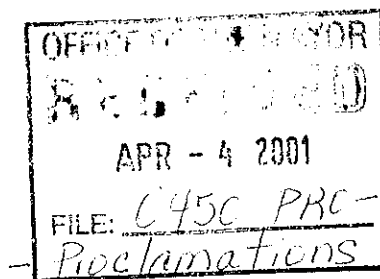
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Randy Markewich
City Clerk

/dlk

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April 3, 2001



Attention to Mayor Pat Fiocco of Regina;

Mr. Fiocco is it with unusual urgency that I write this letter to your office. The urgency is due to the absurdity of a recent e-mail that was delivered to me.

As a women that identifies as a white, heterosexual, full-time mature student it is with much disappointment that I am prompted to send this letter. I agree that a stable family is an excellent environment for any child or adolescent to be raised in, but sexual orientation does not determine one's stability or ability to raise a healthy young person. Unfortunately the problem that frequently arises with same sex couples is the ignorant opinion of people like yourself. By making the claims about the importance of an intact heterosexual family you eliminate about 50% of Canadian families. Are single parents also deserving of the oppressive backlash that arises from proclamations like yours?

Furthermore, it seems that in your position you have a greater responsibility to your community. This responsibility is that of respect. The declaration for a "Heterosexual Family Pride Day" that I have in front of me is void of respect for those that do not fit into the heterosexual, white, middle-class "norm"!

Mr. Fiocco, I assure you that I am delighted not be a member of a community that declares such proclamations, yet I feel great sadness for those in this country that continue to perpetuate this ignorant view of a healthy family unit.

Sincerely;

28(1) Personal

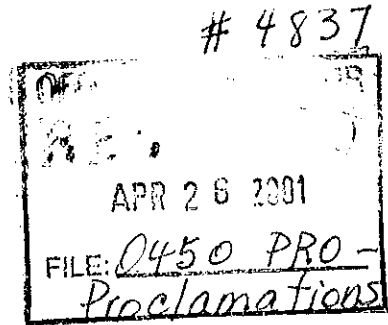


**Canadian Union of Public Employees
Saskatchewan Division**

1680 C Albert Street, Regina, SK S4P 2S6 (306) 757-1009 www.cupe.sk.ca

April 24, 2001

Pat Fiacco
Mayor of Regina
Queen Elizabeth II Court
Box 1790
Regina, SK S4P 3C8



Dear Mr. Fiacco:

On behalf of the 23,000 members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees in Saskatchewan, I am writing to oppose your recent approval of a proclamation for "Heterosexual Pride Day" on June 18th.

In our view, this proclamation mocks the legitimate attempts of gay and lesbian citizens to achieve equality. It seems to condone a backlash against the various Gay Pride events that are scheduled for the same week. The proclamation violates the spirit, if not the letter, of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Code.

In addition, the proclamation is an insult to the thousands of single parents living in Regina who fall outside the orbit of some idealized "heterosexual family unit."

Across Canada, governments at all levels are moving to end discrimination against same-sex couples. Sadly, Regina's proclamation of "Heterosexual Pride Day" is a big step backwards.

We urge you to withdraw this offensive proclamation.

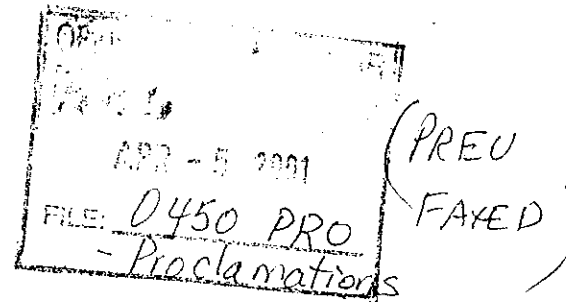
Sincerely,

Tom Graham
President
CUPE Saskatchewan

c.c. Sinda Cathcart, CUPE Pink Triangle Committee

gm/opeiu 342

Honourable Mayor Pat Fiacco
City of Regina
Box 1790
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P-3C8



Re: Heterosexual Pride Day Proclamation

Dear Mayor Fiacco,

It is with great concern that the following response to your proclamation, recently announced to the City of Regina, is submitted.

On behalf of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) National Pink Triangle Committee, a committee formed to deal with the struggles experienced by gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals, we wish to express our sincere disappointment with your decision to approve a proclamation that is so clearly based on discrimination.

With respect to the role of the Saskatchewan Human Right's Commission, the issue of 'freedom of speech' must have been a factor in your decision. However, a quick review of history in Canadian law showcases a prime example of when 'freedom of speech' was violated... the case in point, of course, being Jim Kiegstra. There are few citizens of Regina who have not been exposed to the 'campaign' of Bill Whatcott, especially during the recent past mayoral election. The people of Regina read about his wishes to obliterate gay pride celebrations from their city, along with moving the Saskatchewan Human Right's Commission outside of the city limits. He has not been overly careful in hiding his hatred and hate propaganda is not a new concept. What we have in this proclamation, is just that- hate propaganda clothed in pride. Our sincere hope is that you will revisit your decision to declare June 18th, 2001 Heterosexual Pride Day.

We are keenly interested in seeing this situation resolved and are fully prepared to meet with you at any time should you wish to discuss these concerns. You may contact Sinda Cathcart, who is a resident of Regina, at 28(1)

Sincerely,

Sinda Cathcart
CUPE National Pink Triangle Cmte
Co-Chair

Francois Bellemare
CUPE National Pink Triangle Cmte
Co-Chair

Cc. Judy Darcy - CUPE National President
Members of National Pink Triangle Committee

From: Carol Edwards
To: 28(1) Personal Internet.Regina Groupwise Domain1; City Central Help City Central Help
Date: 4/17/01 11:04am
Subject: Re: heterosexual pride day?

Hi 28(1)
Personal

Thank you for your e-mail correspondence of April 11th inquiring about the "Heterosexual Family Pride Day" proclamation. Mayor Fiacco has signed a proclamation for this day and I wish to provide you with some background information on this subject.

City Council's Procedure Bylaw authorizes the Mayor to issue proclamations. The provisions in the bylaw state that, subject to The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code, the Mayor may approve the proclamation submitted provided it does not:

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Carol Edwards,
Committee Services Co-ordinator
City Clerk's Office
P.O. Box 1790
REGINA, SK S4P 3C8
(306) 777-7185

>>> 28(1) Personal 04/11/01 06:55pm >>>

Hi there, I recently heard through the grapevine that mayor Fiacco had proclaimed June 18 to be Heterosexual Family Pride Day, issuing the following proclamation. Could you please confirm this for me? I couldn't find anything on it on the websites for local media or on the City of Regina website and I'm in Ontario at the moment.

Thanks.
28(1) Personal

Proclamation.

WHEREAS the intact heterosexual family unit is ordained by God as clearly revealed in the Holy Bible (Gen 2:23, 24 Matt 19:4-6); and

WHEREAS large bodies of research support the conclusion that intact heterosexual families provide an excellent nurturing environment for children; and

WHEREAS many believe that intact heterosexual families provide a necessary source of stability that benefits society as a whole; and

WHEREAS intact heterosexual family units provide much needed stability and moral direction for children and young adults; and

WHEREAS intact heterosexual families provide sexual satisfaction for the men and women who are committed to them; and

WHEREAS when monogamy is practiced, the husband and wives who enjoy sexual relations in the confines of their heterosexual marriage have no reason to worry about STD's, AIDS or broken hearts.

NOW THEREFORE I, Pat Fiacco, Mayor of the City of Regina, do hereby proclaim Monday, June 18, 2001 as HETEROSEXUAL FAMILY PRIDE DAY in Regina, and in issuing this proclamation, ask our citizens to recognize this day.

Pat Fiacco
Mayor