



February 23, 2023

**TO: Mayor and Council of the City of Coquitlam**

I am writing to you on behalf of the BC Federation of Labour, which represents a half a million union members in the province of British Columbia through its affiliated unions, including thousands who work and live within your jurisdiction.

It has been brought to my attention that the Tri-Cities Pride Society is seeking to improve the City of Coquitlam's policies on inclusion of 2SLGBTQIA+ (Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, Intersex, Asexual +) community by putting forward the following motions for consideration by your council on the 27<sup>th</sup> of this month.

1. *That the city of Coquitlam amend their Proclamation Policy by exception or by rule to allow for the Pride flag to be flown outside city hall for Pride month this year*
2. *That the City of Coquitlam plan and host a Pride event this summer for families.*

As you are probably aware, thousands of community members showed up last month in your back yard at the Coquitlam library to support Drag Queen Story time, after anti-Trans rhetoric and hate came close to stopping the event.

It's important that we don't avert our eyes from this kind of hate and fear, and simply hope it goes away. Instead of allowing it to fester and grow, we need to tend to it swiftly so our community can heal. And one of the best ways we can signal that hate is not welcome in the city of Coquitlam is by prominently modeling the inclusion and celebration of people of diverse genders and sexual orientations. These motions will mark Coquitlam as a community that embraces diversity, and lay the foundations for further education and understanding.

As a queer woman, I can tell you that sending the signal from the leaders of the city that inclusion is the standard goes a long way toward changing the culture of hate.

I urge you to seriously consider passing these recommendations.

In solidarity,

**SUSSANNE SKIDMORE**  
President

SS/mp



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