



c/o All Saints Anglican Church
1173 Victoria Street
Petawawa, Ontario, K8H 2E6
www.ValleyAnglicans.ca

His Worship Mayor Bob Sweet
Town of Petawawa
1111 Victoria Street
Petawawa, Ontario, K8H 2E6

June 24, 2021

Your Worship,

As ordained leaders of the Anglican Church of Canada serving in the Ottawa Valley, we are writing to express our profound disappointment with the recent decision by the Petawawa Town Council not to amend existing municipal policies that preclude the flying of the Pride Flag by the Town of Petawawa during annual Pride Month festivities. At our services of ordination as clergy, each of us as Anglican priests took a vow before God “to love and serve the people among whom we work, caring alike for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor.” These Christian vows of love and service include loving and serving our LGBTQ2S+ neighbours, too many of whom continue to face systemic discrimination, prejudice and intolerance within our local communities.

While we are encouraged that four members of the Petawawa Town Council voted to review the two decades old policy that prevents public proclamations and flag raisings by the town, the fact that you and two other members of council voted to maintain the current policy which prevents the raising of the Pride Flag is deeply concerning to us as local faith leaders. Numerous leading community groups and employers, including Canadian Forces Base Petawawa, Canadian Nuclear Laboratories and Algonquin College Waterfront Campus, together with all local schools of the Renfrew County and District School Board, and the Municipalities of Pembroke, Renfrew, Arnprior and Deep River have raised the Pride Flag this June, celebrating respect and inclusion in our local communities throughout the Ottawa Valley. Your vote to not permit the raising of the Pride Flag by the Town of Petawawa clearly sends the opposite message to members of the LGBTQ2S+ community and allies. It is our sincere hope that you and the two dissenting members of Petawawa Council will prayerfully reconsider your recent votes to maintain the current policy, keeping in mind the fullness of Jesus’ command to “love your neighbour as yourself.”

As a display of our parish’s solidarity with LGBTQ2S+ residents of Petawawa and beyond, a Pride Flag will be flown at All Saints Anglican Church, Petawawa, a few steps away from Petawawa Town Hall, throughout the coming weeks. We pray that the presence of the flag at the church will be a visible reminder to members of our community of God’s unconditional love for all people.

Yours sincerely and faithfully,

+ Michael Bird

The Rt. Rev. Michael Bird
Incumbent

Matthew J. Brown +

The Rev. Matthew Brown
Associate Incumbent

R. Durrett +

The Rev. Richard Durrett, CD
Interim Assisting Priest

Susan Clifford

The Rev. Canon Susan Clifford
Associate Incumbent

Gillian Hoyer

The Rev. Gillian Hoyer
Associate Incumbent