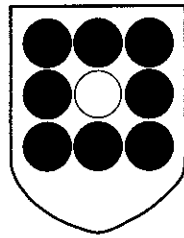


CANADIAN CIVIL LIBERTIES ASSOCIATION

360 Bloor Street West, Suite 506
Toronto, ON M5S 1X1
Telephone (416) 363-0321
FAX (416) 861-1291
Website: www.ccla.org
E-mail: mail@ccla.org



ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES LIBERTES CIVILES

360 rue Bloor Ouest, Suite 506
Toronto, ON M5S 1X1
Téléphone (416) 363-0321
Télécopieur (416) 861-1291
Site Internet: www.ccla.org
Courriel: mail@ccla.org

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE COMITE EXECUTIF

Past Presidents Présidents Précédents

THE HON. J. KEILLER MACKAY
(1888-1970)
J. S. MIDANIK, Q.C.
(1920-1997)
JOHN NELLIGAN, Q.C.
HARRY W. ARTHURS
THE HON. WALTER TARNOPOLSKY
(1932-1993)
WALTER PITMAN
SYBIL SHACK
(1911-2004)
THE HON. ALLAN BLAKENEY

President Présidente

MARSHA HANEN

Vice-presidents Vice-présidents

JAMIE CAMERON
SUSAN COOPER
GISELE CÔTÉ-HARPER, Q.C.
MICHAEL dePENCIER
MARLYS EDWARDH
EDWARD L. GREENSPAN, Q.C.
PATRICIA JACKSON
JOHN D. McCAMUS
DELIA OPEKOKEW
THE HON. HOWARD PAWLEY
KENNETH P. SWAN
DR. JOSEPH WONG

Secretary Secrétaire

SYDNEY GOLDENBERG

Treasurer Trésorière

ELAINE SLATER

General Counsel Avocate Générale

NATHALIE DES ROSIERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION

FRANK ADDARIO
THE HON. WARREN ALLMAND, Q.C.
BROMLEY ARMS'TRONG
THE HON. RONALD ATKY, Q.C.
FRÉDÉRIC BACHAND
JOSEPH BOYDEN
THE HON. EDWARD BROADBENT
LEAH CASSELMAN
THE HON. SAUL CHERNIACK, Q.C.
DOMINIQUE CLÉMENT
JANE COBDEN
MICHAEL CONNER
DR. DEBBY COPEL
DAVID CRONENBERG
FERNAND DAOUST
BRIAN A. F. EDY
SUSAN ENG
MEL FINKELSTEIN
ROBERT FULFORD
VICKI GABEREAU
THE HON. CONSTANCE R. GLUBE, Q.C.
KATHERINE GOVIER
LOUIS GREENSPAN
HUSSEIN HAMDANI
SHIRLEY HEAFY
HARISH JAIN
MAHMUD JAMAL
JANET KEEPING
JOY KOGAWA
ANNE La FOREST
CYRIL LEVITT
ANDREW LOKAN
A. WAYNE MACKAY
KEN MANDZUIK
JON OLIVER
PENELOPE ROWE
PAUL SCHABAS
MARVIN SCHIEF
DAVID SCHNEIDERMAN
ERIC TEED, Q.C.
WALTER THOMPSON
THE VERY REV. LOIS WILSON

Director of Education & Administration
Directrice, Éducation et administration
D. S. McLAUGHLIN

Director, Freedom of Expression Project
Directrice, Project de la liberté d'expression
NOA MENDELSON AVIV

Director, Public Safety Project
Directeur, Project de sécurité publique
GRAEME NORTON

General Counsel Emeritus
Avocat Général Émérite
A. ALAN BOROWOY

Tuesday April 20, 2010

Mayor David Miller
City of Toronto, Metro Hall
55 John Street
Toronto ON, M5V 3C6
mayor_miller@toronto.ca

Kyle Rae, Councillor
City of Toronto, Metro Hall
55 John Street
Toronto ON, M5V 3C6
councillor_rae@toronto.ca

Ceta Ramkhalawansingh, Manager
Diversity Management and
Community Engagement
City of Toronto, Metro Hall
55 John Street
Toronto ON, M5V 3C6
cramkhal@toronto.ca

Dear Sirs/Mesdames:

I am writing on behalf of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association to express our concern regarding recent reports that the Toronto Pride Parade was warned that it may have its funding withdrawn if there were continued 'violations' of the City's anti-discrimination policy. Although we were not able to locate an official statement, media reports suggest that the city found that Pride had contravened the city's anti-discrimination policy due to the participation of the group Queers Against Israeli Apartheid (QuAIA) in the parade. According to quotes from city officials, QuAIA's participation had created an environment at Pride "where not everybody feels welcome," leading to a violation of anti-discrimination policies through the creation of a "poisoned environment."

By mail and email

Mike Williams, General Manager
Economic Development, Culture & Tourism
City of Toronto, Metro Hall
55 John Street
Toronto ON, M5V 3C6
mwillia5@toronto.ca

Rita Davies, Director
Cultural Services
City of Toronto, Metro Hall
55 John Street
Toronto ON, M5V 3C6
rdavies@toronto.ca

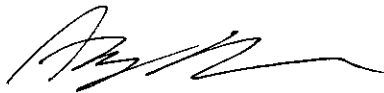


Although the CCLA understands the City's concern for anti-discrimination, we question whether withholding funding on the basis of a possible creation of a poisoned environment is appropriate in this context. In our view, a parade is not a traditional 'work environment', and the two cannot be directly equated. Here, there are no allegations that Pride Toronto's organizers were hostile towards Jewish participants or prevented the participation of same-sex pro-Israel groups. The fact that a parade includes a group promoting a very strongly-worded, one-sided political message is not sufficient to find contravention of an anti-discrimination policy. It is true that these messages may offend individuals due to their political affiliations, citizenship, place of origin, religion, or any number of other listed grounds. This is also true, however, of many of the other messages carried in the parade. If posted in a workplace, many of the images at Pride would be highly inappropriate, offensive to some, and under the right circumstances could easily contribute to a poisoned work environment. A workplace and a parade are fundamentally different venues. It simply does not follow that because a small part of a parade shows material that is offensive and makes some uncomfortable, the parade has created a hostile atmosphere and contravened anti-discrimination policies.

Similar complications would arise in the context of arts grantees. Exhibitions and theatre performances may present a point of view on a controversial subject that make individuals from a specific community uncomfortable. These considerations alone should not, however, preclude them from receiving public funding.

Freedom of expression is central to these groups' mandates, and they should not have public funding withdrawn on this basis. We therefore urge you to reconsider your interpretation of the City's anti-discrimination policy.

Sincerely,



Abby Deshman
Project Director