

STATEMENT OF GODWIN CHAN

November 11, 2023

Richmond Hill

Last Sunday, I attended a federal political party event in my personal capacity. It was brought to my attention that my actions at that event may have been interpreted as discriminating against the LGBTQ2IA+ community.

In a video clip that is circulating on social media, I am shown nodding and clapping when the Leader of the Official Opposition spoke on a wide range of subjects, including the general statement on gender ideology and children.

My reaction was based on reflecting on my own belief that minor children would need parental consent for undergoing surgical procedures for gender changes.

I apologize my reaction that may have been viewed as hurtful to anyone, including Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Two-Spirit, Intersex, Asexual, and other identities that fall outside of cisgender and heterosexual paradigms. Throughout my life, as a private citizen and a local official, I have demonstrated by actions and conduct that I have never, ever, discriminated against any person. I believe in equal rights for every person as enshrined in the Charter of Rights of Freedoms.

Let me be clear- My personal beliefs do not necessarily reflect those of Council or the City of Richmond Hill.

I am committed to learning more about gender issues and challenges the LGBTQ2IA+ community face every day and will work with Pflag Canada York Region, and others to further that knowledge and understanding.

I appreciate the President of Pflag Canada York Region, Tristan Coolman, for being open to hear my explanation. I am committed to engaging with the President and members of Pflag Canada to deepen my understanding of the issues and concerns of the LGBTQ2IA+ community. Let's continue to work together to advance the diversity, equity and inclusion principles that I firmly believe in.