

June 7, 2021

To Port Colborne Mayor Bill Steele and City Council:

It is OUTniagara's pleasure to support of the Downtown Port Colborne BIA's request to paint a rainbow crosswalk on a selected street in Port Colborne.

OUTniagara, a non-profit organization that advocates for and connects Niagara's 2SLGBTQQIA+ communities, supports endeavours that signal the value of diversity and acceptance of these communities. The action is especially effective when the City as a corporation indicates it's open to welcoming all people within its borders, moving towards and eventually creating a culture of safety, acceptance, inclusivity and respect.

It's no secret that the economy everywhere has taken a sharp hit during pandemic restrictions. Knowing that the City of Port Colborne is open for business for all people, not only 2SLGBTQQIA+ shoppers and tourists, but also 2SLGBTQQIA+ businesses, will help restore economic health.

A rainbow crosswalk painted on a downtown street can create much goodwill, especially if it's followed by policies and programs that genuinely benefit Niagara's sexual- and gender-diverse communities.

In conclusion, we support the Downtown Port Colborne BIA's request for a rainbow crosswalk.

Respectfully,



Celeste Turner (they, them)
Chair, OUTniagara

