



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
John Taylor

MAYOR JOHN TAYLOR'S STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE BLACK, INDIGENOUS AND PEOPLE OF COLOR (BIPOC) COMMUNITY

In acknowledgement of the current events in the United States and around the world I believe we need to stop and recognize this historic moment and try to understand it as fully as we can. We need to acknowledge the situation that exists for Black residents of our community – we need to acknowledge that systemic racism still exists. The most recent brutal killing of George Floyd is not the first or the last instance of anti-Black Racism. This is simply the latest piece of evidence that racism and anti-Black racism continue to exist – not only in the United States – but here in Canada and in Newmarket also. We must acknowledge it, we must educate ourselves and we must commit to do something about it.

I am proud that Canadians have made their voices heard on this matter of great urgency and significance. The purpose of my statement today is to call for unity – a unity of purpose. We, as Newmarket residents must all recognize that the story around the world is not of riots and looting. In fact those actions contradict the real story – the story of calls for justice and equality. The fact is that some members of our communities continue to face racism in their day to day lives and as a result they are exercising their right to be heard in the hope that others will listen.

As the Mayor of Newmarket, it is my duty to speak for Newmarket, but in doing so, I must also recognize my own privilege, as a white male. I must not just recognize my privilege but I must understand how it may limit others if I truly want to be a part of the solution.

Newmarket is working to be more inclusive. I am proud that we have implemented and Inclusivity Charter and that we have made inclusivity and diversity work a priority of this term of Council. I am proud of the work we have done with the Newmarket African Caribbean Canadian Association and I thank them for the contribution to our community. But that is not enough - as individuals we must all continue to educate ourselves and advocate for change not just at a moment of crisis but year in and year out.

Speaking directly to any resident who has been the victim of racism, it is with complete sincerity I say to you that I will never fully understand your experiences, but I can make this commitment, I will be your Ally. We will talk less and listen more. We will seek out injustice and take action to end it. We will celebrate our differences and embrace opportunities to learn from them.

Now is the time to take more steps and bigger steps in our fight to end racism. I look forward to the work ahead to make Newmarket and Canada more inclusive and more just – and I remain optimistic that together we can create a better tomorrow.

JOHN TAYLOR