

Town Centre Boulevard  
Markham, ON  
L3R 9W3

Dear Mayor Frank Scarpitti

I am writing to you regarding the issue of bullying, violence and gangs in our schools. I am a Child and Youth Worker with the York Region District School Board who is currently working on an awareness campaign with 6 schools in Markham; for students, parents, and educators.

I would like to request the Town of Markham to recognize and proclaim the week of November 19-23 from now forward to be bully and violence awareness week. If this week is recognized by the council and Town of Markham it would greatly impact our ability to progress. It would encourage schools and others in our community to increase their involvement with these issues and highlight our efforts in building a safe community for all of us to live in.

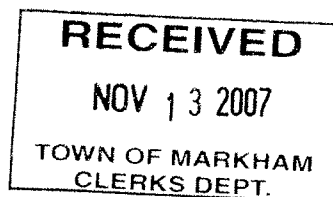
I request that the Town of Markham join Mayor Miller from the City of Toronto who proclaimed this week in 2005 along with many other international groups; and let us be the first town from York Region to continue those efforts.

If you need to contact me for further details, please do so at 905-294-5756 x 160. Thank you in advance for your efforts and consideration.

Regards,

*Nisha Mehta*

Nisha Mehta  
Campaign Co-ordinator  
York Region District School Board



The following is taken from [www.bullyingawarenessweek.org](http://www.bullyingawarenessweek.org) where the idea originated.

The idea for a Bullying Awareness Week began with Canadian father and educator Bill Belsey after February 16, 2000.

Research has shown us that approximately 15% of a given population in a school or workplace are directly involved with bullying, that leaves 85% as potential bystanders or silent majority. This group is the primary focus and target audience for Bullying Awareness Week. The week also has youth as a primary focus, as they are the ones who can "Be the change", and grow up thinking differently about bullying unlike many in previous generations who have attitudes about bullying as a "Right of passage" or even that "Being bullied is good for you, it toughens you up."

The vision behind Bullying Awareness Week:

- Bullying Awareness Week is about working at preventing bullying through education and awareness
- Bullying Awareness Week is NOT about what others could or should be doing, but rather what WE can do!
- Bullying is a community issue. Schools are a critically important part of the solution, but bullying should not be defined solely as a "school problem".
- Addressing bullying is best done with a wholistic, community approach.
- Bullying is a personal health and wellness issue that can last a lifetime
- Bullying is a serious issue, at it's worst, bullying can kill.