



No Hate in Huron



July 11, 2025

Emma MacNeil
Tourism Events & Marketing Coordinator
Town of Goderich



Dear Emma MacNeil,

No Hate in Huron is a grassroots collective committed to safeguarding human rights and community wellbeing in response to the far-right extremism that has taken root in Huron County.

These threats include Gord Leamen's visible and openly racist endorsement of the "White Lives Matter" movement, as well as the cross-border meetup of self-identified neo-Nazis from Ontario, Quebec, and the United States at the GDCI track in August 2024.

No Hate in Huron is a diverse community whose work has garnered national attention and wide acclaim. A spokesperson for the Canadian Anti-Hate Network called it "magical" and "a model for the rest of Canada." Former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and world-renowned author and activist Maude Barlow have publicly offered their support.

We have long considered the Town of Goderich an ally in this journey. That's why we were disheartened to receive the Hold Harmless and Indemnity Agreement within your special events application for our One Year Anniversary celebration.

Requiring us to waive our fundamental human rights as a condition for civic engagement is troubling, potentially violating the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and deeply incongruent with our movement's purpose and values. It also disregards the lived experiences of marginalized communities for whom state-led harms are not hypothetical.

We cannot, in good conscience, pre-emptively "indemnify" and "hold harmless" the Town and the OPP from any wrongdoing "arising from any cause whatsoever." This would betray our values and principles and could leave participants without recourse if harm were to occur.

On August 4, 2025, we will gather in peace, joy, and solidarity—alongside neighbours, friends, and allies—carrying a banner that reads "LOVE LIVES HERE." We will be led by those most directly affected by organized hate. Our intention is clear: to affirm community, dignity, and love.

No Hate in Huron exists to reduce harm through advocacy, education, art, and solidarity. Why, then, would the Town adopt a policy that risks causing harm? What harms, exactly, are being anticipated—or pre-emptively excused?

As you know, the rights to peaceful assembly, life, liberty, and security of the person are inalienable under the Charter. We also stand firmly with the Ontario Human Rights Code, which affirms the inherent dignity and equality of all people.

To sign the indemnity agreement would cause significant moral harm and violate the principle of informed consent. We cannot and will not waive the rights of our community members on their behalf.

The request is not only unworkable, but contrary to the very ideals we aim to uphold. We ask directly: is the Hold Harmless clause a fixed requirement? If so, we will be forced to reconsider our course of action. Either way, we are grateful for the opportunity to challenge this barrier to civic participation.

We believe in collaboration. On October 21, 2024, Goderich Town Council passed a motion inspired by No Hate in Huron's advocacy. Though Council shockingly and hurtfully refused to denounce white supremacy and neo-Nazism, it did commit to working with organizations to "foster equality, an appreciation of cultural diversity, and respect."

This indemnity clause undermines that commitment, reflecting neither a welcoming nor inclusive spirit, but instead signaling a serious disconnect from the realities faced by vulnerable community members.

Council also promised to "regularly assess policies" to ensure they promote equity, diversity, and inclusion. This is an opportunity to fulfill that promise. The indemnity clause demands urgent reassessment.

We are familiar with the standard justification that "this is simply how things are done." However, it is precisely the mission of No Hate in Huron to challenge and transform "the way things are done."

We remain hopeful that Goderich will choose a path grounded in integrity and shared commitment. We welcome further dialogue and look forward to your timely response. In the meantime, we will continue, with courage and compassion, to celebrate diversity and push forward toward a future free from hate.

Sincerely,

Patrick Corvyn

No Hate in Huron

cc: Leah Noel, Deputy Mayor

Allison Segeren, Councillor

Amanda Banting, Deputy Clerk