

Letter of Support

Rutland Young Professionals



The Rutland Young Professionals (RYP) Board of Directors is proud to support the Declaration of Inclusion created by Rutland County residents Al Wakefield, Bob Harnish, and several others.

Rutland Young Professionals is an all-inclusive organization focused on creating a vibrant Rutland Region. We engage with our community, create social and professional networking opportunities, and work to build a region that attracts and retains young professionals – young professionals of different races, ethnicities, genders, religions, sexual orientations, political affiliations, and more. Rutland Young Professionals is committed to making the Rutland Region a great place to work, live, learn, and play. We are also committed to doing our part to ensure that everyone – especially our diverse friends, colleagues, and members – feels comfortable and safe in our community.

We believe that diversity – in backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences – make us stronger as both a community and an organization. Our differences should be valued and embraced.

We know that there are many benefits to adopting the Declaration of Inclusion, but it is especially important for the demographic we serve, and Vermont as a whole. More young professionals are leaving the state every year. Vermont must continue to grow both culturally and economically in order to attract and retain young professionals. Vermont is home to the third oldest population in this country, so awareness and support of activities that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in all of its forms are critical to ensure that we continue welcoming young professionals in the Rutland Region and beyond. Our hope is that these individuals will choose to make their home in the Rutland Region, raise families here, start businesses, and become engaged in their respective communities.

For these and many other reasons, we strongly support the adoption of the Declaration of Inclusion – or an alternative version if deemed more appropriate – by all 27 towns and cities in the Rutland Region.

The Rutland Young Professionals Board of Directors