

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Tuesday, September 17, 2024

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: PROCLAMATION REQUESTS:

NATIONAL TREE DAY, INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL MONTH (IWALK), WRONGFUL CONVICTION DAY, CHILD CARE WORKER AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR APPRECIATION DAY, AND IMAGINE A DAY WITHOUT WATER

FROM:

Wendy Law, Deputy City Manager, Legal and Administrative Services & City Solicitor

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To seek approval for the above-noted proclamation requests.

Report Highlights

- Respond to the proclamation requests received for the months of September and October.

Recommendations

1. THAT the following be proclaimed:
 - a. The day of September 25, 2024, as “National Tree Day”;
 - b. The month of October 2024 as “International Walk to School Month (IWALK)”;
 - c. The day of October 2, 2024, as “Wrongful Conviction Day”;
 - d. The day of October 24, 2024, as “Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day”; and
 - e. The day of October 17, 2024, as “Imagine a Day Without Water”; and
2. THAT the proclamations be posted on the City’s website and that the Communications, Marketing and Engagement Department be directed to promote the above noted proclamations through the various corporate channels.

Background

National Tree Day

Correspondence was received from the Parks, Forestry and Horticulture Operations at the City of Vaughan on August 19, 2024, making the request for proclamation.

National Tree Day (NTD) is a day for Canadians to come together in appreciation of trees, their natural beauty, and the many benefits they provide.

International Walk to School Month (IWALK)

Correspondence was received from the Transportation and Fleet Management Services at the City of Vaughan on August 13, 2024, making the request for proclamation.

International Walk to School Month (IWALK) is an annual mass celebration of active transportation that takes place around the world throughout the month of October.

Wrongful Conviction Day

Correspondence was received from the International Wrongful Conviction Day Committee on July 4, 2024, making the request for proclamation.

Wrongful Conviction Day is designated as an annual International Day to recognize the tremendous personal, social and legal costs associated with wrongful criminal convictions. This day recognizes those persons who have been forced to endure the tremendous consequences brought by a wrongful criminal conviction. The purpose of this day is to inform and educate the broader international community on the causes, consequences and complications associated with wrongful criminal convictions.

Council has previously granted this request.

Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day

Correspondence was received from the Ontario Coalition For Better Child Care on July 25, 2024, making the request for proclamation.

This day recognizes the commitment, skills and hard work of Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) and staff who work with young children. Each year, the day is proclaimed by the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care (OCBCC), the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), municipalities and school boards across Ontario, and is marked by hundreds of childcare centres, unions, and allies.

Council has previously granted this request.

Imagine a Day Without Water

Correspondence was received from the Environmental Services department at the City of Vaughan on September 3, 2024, making the request for proclamation.

Imagine a Day Without Water was envisioned as an advocacy and education day that asked citizens to think about what it would mean to go without water for a day. This is the tenth year where communities from across North America come together, for a day of education and advocacy about the value of water. This day creates awareness about the role of water infrastructure in our lives and the importance of continuing to invest in it.

Council has previously granted this request.

Previous Reports/Authority

Wrongful Conviction Day

[Committee of the Whole \(2\) – September 19, 2023](#)

Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day

[Committee of the Whole \(2\) – September 20, 2022](#)

Imagine a Day Without Water

[Council – September 27, 2021](#)

Analysis and Options

National Tree Day

The proclamation request meets the requirements of the City's Proclamation Policy, as follows:

- 2.1. For the purposes of section 2, a proclamation may be issued for:
 - 2.1.4. Public awareness campaigns

International Walk to School Month (IWALK)

The proclamation request meets the requirements of the City's Proclamation Policy, as follows:

- 2.1. For the purposes of section 2, a proclamation may be issued for:
 - 2.1.4. Public awareness campaigns

Wrongful Conviction Day

- 2.1. For the purposes of section 2, a proclamation may be issued for:
 - 2.1.4. Public awareness campaigns

Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day

2.1. For the purposes of section 2, a proclamation may be issued for:

2.1.4. Public awareness campaigns

Imagine a Day Without Water

2.1. For the purposes of section 2, a proclamation may be issued for:

2.1.4. Public awareness campaigns

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact expected in regard to these requests.

Operational Impact

The Communications, Marketing and Engagement team will oversee the promotion of these proclamations on corporate channels.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

Not applicable.

Conclusion

Having reviewed the requests, staff is recommending that the following dates be proclaimed:

1. The day of September 25, 2024, as “National Tree Day”;
2. The month of October 2024 as “International Walk to School Month (IWALK)”;
3. The day of October 2, 2024, as “Wrongful Conviction Day”;
4. The day of October 24, 2024, as “Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day”; and
5. The day of October 17, 2024, as “Imagine a Day Without Water”.

Additionally, staff recommends that the proclamations be posted on the City’s website and that the Communications, Marketing and Engagement department be directed to promote the above noted proclamations through the various corporate channels.

For more information, please contact: Todd Coles, City Clerk, ext. 8281

Attachments

1. Proclamation Request Form from Parks, Forestry and Horticulture Operations, City of Vaughan
2. Proclamation Request Form from Transportation and Fleet Management Services, City of Vaughan
3. Proclamation Request Form from International Wrongful Conviction Day
4. Proclamation Request Form from the Ontario Coalition For Better Child Care
5. Proclamation Request Letter from the Ontario Coalition For Better Child Care
6. Proclamation Request Form from Environmental Services, City of Vaughan

Prepared by

Sonia Furtado, Acting Supervisor, City Clerk's Administrative Services, ext. 8329