

Committee of the Whole (1) Report

DATE: Tuesday, March 4, 2025

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: PROCLAMATION REQUESTS: LIMB LOSS AND LIMB DIFFERENCE AWARENESS MONTH, WORLD AUTISM DAY, NATIONAL ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER APPRECIATION WEEK, ARBOR WEEK, NATIONAL DAY OF AWARENESS FOR MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS AND TWO-SPIRIT PEOPLE, AND

FROM:

Michael Genova, Deputy City Manager, Strategic Initiatives

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To seek approval for the above-noted proclamation requests.

Report Highlights

- Respond to the proclamation requests received for the months of April and May, including:
 - April as “Limb Loss and Limb Difference Awareness Month”
 - April 2nd, 2025, as “World Autism Day”
 - April 13th to 19th, 2025 as “National Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week”
 - April 25th to May 4th, 2025, as “Arbor Week”
 - May 5th, 2025, as “National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-Spirit People”
 - May 7th, 2025, as “Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Day”

Recommendations

1. THAT the following be proclaimed in 2025:
 - a. The month of April as “Limb Loss and Limb Difference Awareness Month”;
 - b. The day of April 2nd as “World Autism Day”;

- c. The week of April 13th-19th as “National Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week”;
 - d. The week of April 25th-May 4th as “Arbor Week”;
 - e. The day of May 5th as “National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-Spirit People”; and
 - f. The day of May 7th as “Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Day”.
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

Limb Loss and Limb Difference Awareness Month

Proclamation request was received from the City of Vaughan's Office of the Chief Human Resources Officer on April 29, 2024.

The City of Vaughan proudly recognizes Limb Loss and Limb Difference Awareness Month in April to celebrate the strength, resilience, and invaluable contributions that Canadians with limb loss or limb difference make to their communities and city. Vaughan is committed to creating an accessible and inclusive city where residents and visitors feel valued, respected, and empowered to thrive. As such, this proclamation will continue to support and uplift individuals with limb loss or limb differences, championing their achievements and fostering a more inclusive city for all.

World Autism Day

Proclamation request was received from Autism Ontario on February 7, 2025.

Autism Ontario is a charitable organization with a history of over 50 years representing the thousands of people on the autism spectrum and their families across Ontario. Autism Ontario is the province’s leading source of information and referral on autism, and one of the largest collective voices representing the autism community. Autism Ontario aims to help all autistic individuals and families in their communities have access to meaningful supports, information, and connections so they are equitably and seamlessly supported across their life course.

Council has previously granted this request.

In addition to the proclamation request, a flag raising request was submitted to commemorate this date which will be reviewed by the City Clerk as per the City’s Flag Raising Policy.

National Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week

Proclamation request was received from the City of Vaughan's Animal Services department on November 5, 2024.

The week is designated to show appreciation to animal control officers dedicated to helping pets and people in the community.

Council has previously granted this request.

Arbor Week

Proclamation request was received from the City of Vaughan's Animal Services department on February 14, 2025.

Arbor Week is celebrated in Ontario to promote tree conservation and encourage residents to actively participate in tree planting efforts.

National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-Spirit People

Proclamation request was received from the City of Vaughan's Office of the Chief Human Resources Officer on April 25, 2024.

Violence against Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit people in Canada is a national crisis rooted in colonialism and systemic racism. On May 5, Red Dress Day raises awareness, honouring the lost through ceremonies and calls for change.

Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Day

Proclamation request was received from the York Region My MS Family Organization on January 18, 2025.

York Region My MS Family Organization services hundreds of members with financial and equipment subsidies each month. By raising awareness of Multiple Sclerosis, the organization is hoping to increase funding to members.

Council has previously granted this request.

In addition to the proclamation request, a flag raising request was submitted to commemorate this date which will be reviewed by the City Clerk as per the City's Flag Raising Policy.

Previous Reports/Authority

World Autism Day

[Committee of the Whole \(2\) – March 19, 2024](#)

National Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week

[Committee of the Whole \(2\) – March 19, 2024](#)

Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Day

[Committee of the Whole \(2\) – April 16, 2024](#)

Analysis and Options

The proclamation requests listed below meet the requirements of the City's Proclamation Policy 03.C.10, as per sections 2.1.3 "*Charitable and non-profit fundraising campaigns*" and 2.1.4 "*Public awareness campaigns*":

- Limb Loss and Limb Difference Awareness Month
- World Autism Day
- National Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week
- Arbor Week
- National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-Spirit People
- Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Day

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 in 2025 be proclaimed:

1. The month of April as "Limb Loss and Limb Difference Awareness Month";
2. The day of April 2nd as "World Autism Day";

3. The week of April 13th-19th as “National Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week”;
4. The week of April 25th to May 4th as “Arbor Week”;
5. The day of May 5th as “National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-Spirit People”; and
6. The day of May 7th as Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Day.

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 - Limb Loss and Limb Difference Awareness Month
2. Proclamation Request Letter - Limb Loss and Limb Difference Awareness Month
3. Proclamation Request Form - World Autism Day
4. Proclamation Request Letter - World Autism Day
5. Proclamation Request Form - National Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week
6. Proclamation Request Form – Arbor Week
7. Proclamation Request Form - National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-Spirit People
8. Proclamation Request Form - Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Day

Prepared by

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