

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Tuesday, April 8, 2025

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: PROCLAMATION REQUESTS: BUILDING SAFETY MONTH, GUILLAIN-BARRE SYNDROME/CHRONIC INFLAMMATORY DEMYELINATING POLYNEUROPATHY AWARENESS MONTH, WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY, MUNICIPAL CLERKS WEEK AND PROVINCIAL DAY OF ACTION ON LITTER

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 month of May, including:
 - May as “Building Safety Month”
 - May as “Guillain-Barré Syndrome/Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy Awareness Month”
 - May 3, 2025, as “World Press Freedom Day”
 - May 4 to May 10, 2025, as “Municipal Clerks Week”
 - May 13, 2025, as “Provincial Day of Action on Litter”

Recommendations

1. THAT the following be proclaimed in 2025:
 - a. The month of May as “Building Safety Month”;
 - b. The month of May as “Guillain-Barré Syndrome/Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy Awareness Month”;
 - c. May 3 as “World Press Freedom Day”;
 - d. The week of May 4 to May 10 as “Municipal Clerks Week”; and
 - e. May 13 as “Provincial Day of Action on Litter”.

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

Building Safety Month

The request for proclamation was received from the City of Vaughan's Building Standards Department on March 11, 2025.

The Ontario Building Officials Association celebrates Building Safety Month every May to bring awareness to the Ontario Building Code and to promote the importance of obtaining building permits, as well as highlight the contributions of Municipal Building Officials.

Council has previously granted this request.

Guillain-Barré Syndrome/Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy Awareness Month

Proclamation request was received from the Guillain-Barré Syndrome/Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy Foundation on February 14, 2025.

This month has been internationally designated as Guillain-Barré Syndrome/Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy Awareness Month to educate and raise awareness on these rare conditions. Earlier diagnosis, treatment and access to rehabilitation services can improve the chances of avoiding permanent lifelong residual damage of the nerves due to these conditions.

Council has previously granted this request.

World Press Freedom Day

Proclamation request was received from the Ink-Stained Wretches group on February 14, 2025.

Ink-Stained Wretches is a grassroots advocacy group that believes a healthy, professional news media sector is essential for the proper functioning of civil society and democracy at the local, provincial, federal and international levels. Since 2008, more than 525 news outlets in roughly 350 communities across Canada have closed or merged. World Press Freedom Day helps promote a culture of appreciation for quality journalism in aid of democracy.

Municipal Clerks Week

Proclamation request was received from the City of Vaughan's Office of the City Clerk on February 7, 2025.

This week is recognized and celebrated by municipal clerks across the United States, Canada, and various other countries. The week is a time of recognition on the importance of the Office of the City Clerk as a vital part of local government. The Office of the City Clerk often serves as the primary information hub for the functions of local government and community life, providing essential resources and support to residents in the City of Vaughan.

Council has previously granted this request.

Provincial Day of Action on Litter

Proclamation request was received from the City of Vaughan's Parks, Forestry and Horticulture Operations department on February 14, 2025.

The Provincial Day of Action on Litter raises awareness about the environmental impact of litter and encourages residents to take action by collecting litter in public spaces, including parks, lakes, and rivers.

Council has previously granted this request.

Previous Reports/Authority

Building Safety Month

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

Guillain-Barré Syndrome/Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy Awareness Month

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

Municipal Clerks Week

[Committee of the Whole \(2\) – June 18, 2024](#)

Provincial Day of Action on Litter

[Committee of the Whole \(1\) – May 7, 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*":

- Building Safety Month
- Guillain-Barré Syndrome/Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy Awareness Month
- World Press Freedom Day
- Municipal Clerks Week
- Provincial Day of Action on Litter

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 May as "Building Safety Month";
2. The month of May as "Guillain-Barré Syndrome/Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy Awareness Month";
3. May 3 as "World Press Freedom Day";
4. The week of May 4 to May 10 as "Municipal Clerks Week"; and
5. May 13 as "Provincial Day of Action on Litter".

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 – Building Safety Month
2. Proclamation Request Form – Guillain-Barré Syndrome/Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy Awareness Month
3. Proclamation Request Letter – Guillain-Barré Syndrome/Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy Awareness Month
4. Proclamation Request Form – World Press Freedom Day
5. Proclamation Request Form – Municipal Clerks Week
6. Proclamation Request Form – Provincial Day of Action in Litter

Prepared by

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