



Innocence Canada

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AUG 22 2019  
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Dear Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua,

My name is Mabel Pastrana, a Criminal Justice and Public Policy student from the University of Guelph, and a volunteer for Innocence Canada (formerly the Association in Defence of the Wrongfully Convicted). I am writing to you on behalf of Innocence Canada to ask if you would proclaim October 2<sup>nd</sup> as Wrongful Conviction Day in the city of Vaughan.

The purpose of Wrongful Conviction Day is to spread awareness about wrongful convictions and the effects these convictions have on individuals, their families, and the society at large. Through Wrongful Conviction Day, Innocence Canada aims to decrease the amount of wrongful convictions in Canada by encouraging the justice system to address issues that contribute to wrongful convictions.

Innocence Canada is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1993 and have been responsible for exonerating 24 wrongly convicted individuals. Amongst these exonerees are David Milgaard, Romeo Phillion, Steven Truscott and Guy Paul Morin. There is an undetermined number of individuals imprisoned for crimes they did not commit. Nobody is exempt from the possibility of being wrongfully convicted.

We hope that you would be able to offer us assistance in our mission to declaring October 2nd as Wrongful Conviction day across Canada. Numerous cities have joined us in our efforts such as Toronto, Oakville, Ajax, Pickering, Orillia, etc. Please visit <http://www.innocencecanada.com/> for more information on the organization, and feel free to contact me if you have further questions at [mpastran@uoguelph.ca](mailto:mpastran@uoguelph.ca) or

I look forward to hearing from you,

Mabel Pastrana  
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