

## **CITY OF VAUGHAN**

### **EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 29, 2020**

Item 24, Report No. 25, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 29, 2020.

#### **24. PROCLAMATION REQUESTS: FRANCO-ONTARIAN DAY AND WORLD SICKLE CELL DAY**

**The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Deputy City Manager, Administrative Services and City Solicitor, dated June 16, 2020:**

##### **Recommendations**

1. That September 25, 2020 be proclaimed as “Franco-Ontarian Day”;
2. That June 19, 2020 be proclaimed as “World Sickle Cell Day”; and
3. That the proclamations be posted on the City’s website and that the Corporate and Strategic Communications department be directed to promote the proclamations through the various corporate channels.

## Committee of the Whole (2) Report

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**DATE:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020

**WARD(S):** ALL

**TITLE: PROCLAMATION REQUESTS: FRANCO-ONTARIAN DAY AND  
WORLD SICKLE CELL DAY**

**FROM:**

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

**ACTION:** DECISION

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**Purpose**

To seek approval for proclamation requests for: Franco-Ontarian Day and World Sickle Cell Day.

**Report Highlights**

- Respond to the proclamation request received from L'Association des francophones de la region de York (L'AFRY) regarding a proclamation for Franco-Ontario Day on September 25, 2020.
- Respond to the proclamation request received from Sickle Cell Awareness Group of Ontario (SCAGO) regarding a proclamation for World Sickle Cell Day on June 19, 2020.

**Recommendations**

1. That September 25, 2020 be proclaimed as "Franco-Ontarian Day";
2. That June 19, 2020 be proclaimed as "World Sickle Cell Day"; and
3. That the proclamations be posted on the City's website and that the Corporate and Strategic Communications department be directed to promote the proclamations through the various corporate channels.

## **Background**

### **Franco-Ontarian Day**

Correspondence was received from L'AFRY on April 16, 2020.

Recognizing the date of September 25 as Franco-Ontarian Day is meaningful to Franco-Ontarians to commemorate the anniversary of the arrival of Etienne Brule. This is a day of importance for Franco-Ontarians to celebrate the anniversary of their flag as well as the presence of the Franco-Ontarian community in both York Region and the province of Ontario.

Council has previously granted this request.

### **World Sickle Cell Day**

Correspondence was received from SCAGO on May 13, 2020.

Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) or Sickle Cell Anemia is a hereditary genetic disease characterized by the presence of abnormal crescent-shaped red blood cells which can affect Canadians of specific cultural backgrounds. The organization is hoping that by recognizing June 19 as World Sickle Cell Day, public awareness of this disease would be increased, as well as the importance of education and genetic testing.

This is a new request.

## **Previous Reports/Authority**

Franco-Ontarian Day - [Committee of the Whole - April 2, 2019](#)

## **Analysis and Options**

### **Franco-Ontarian Day**

The proclamation meets the requirements of the City's Proclamation Policy 03.C.10, as follows:

- 2.1. For the purposes of Section 2, a proclamation may be issued for:
  - 2.1.1. Arts, culture or heritage commemorations in the City of Vaughan.

### **World Sickle Cell Day**

The proclamation meets the requirements of the City's Proclamation Policy 03.C.10, as follows:

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

**Financial Impact**

Not applicable.

**Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations**

Not applicable.

**Conclusion**

Staff is recommending that September 25, 2020, be proclaimed as Franco-Ontarian Day; that June 19, 2020, be proclaimed as World Sickle Cell Day; that the proclamations be posted on the City's website; and that the Corporate and Strategic Communications department be directed to promote the proclamations through the various corporate channels.

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

**Attachments**

1. Correspondence from Director of Community Services, L'AFRY, received on April 16, 2020.
2. Correspondence from Communications and Marketing Manager, SCAGO, received on May 13, 2020.

**Prepared by**

Julia Bartolomeo, Supervisor, City Clerks Administrative Services, ext. 8280

Association des francophones de la région de York (AFRY)  
90 Walton Drive, Aurora, ON L4G 3K2  
Tél 289-552-4297  
[info@afry.ca](mailto:info@afry.ca) / [www.afry.ca](http://www.afry.ca)



April 16, 2020

City of Vaughan  
2141 Major Mackenzie Dr.  
Vaughan, ON L6A 1T1

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

Since 2010, September 25th has been designated as the official Franco-Ontarian Day. This day of awareness to the situation of Franco-Ontarians is to celebrate and to emphasize the anniversary of their flag and the presence of their community.

In this context, L'Association des francophones de la région de York (L'AFRY) is proud to celebrate in a special way the anniversary of the arrival of Étienne Brûlé and the presence of Francophone in York Region. We would appreciate if September 25th can be proclaim "Franco-Ontarian day".

Today, over 600 000 French speaking citizens live in Ontario, making it the largest francophone community outside of the province of Quebec

Several of the region's town and cities did agree to proclaim September 25th "Franco-Ontarian day" last year and we are hopeful that the City of Vaughan will also commit to proclaim it.

Please feel free to contact me by email at [services.c@afry.ca](mailto:services.c@afry.ca)

Sincerely Yours,

Rokia Boiro  
Director of the community services

RECEIVED  
APR 16 2020  
CLERK'S DEPT.



May 13, 2020

City of Vaughan  
Vaughan City Hall, Level 100  
2141 Major Mackenzie Dr.  
Vaughan, ON L6A 1T1

Dear City Clerk's Office:

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the Communications and Marketing Manager for the Sickle Cell Awareness Group of Ontario (SCAGO).

Sickle Cell Awareness Group of Ontario also known as SCAGO is a member organization under the national umbrella of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of Canada.

It was established in 2005 to:

- Improve treatment and care received by patients living with SCD by providing better education about the disease to the medical and allied health professionals.
- Educate the community on SCD and sickle cell trait with the expected outcome of reducing the number of children born with the disease.
- Support those living with the disease by providing access to peer support group meetings, scholarships, learning for life seminars and advocating on their behalves with the Ontario Ministry of Health.

Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) or Sickle Cell Anaemia is a hereditary genetic disease characterized by the presence of abnormal crescent-shaped red blood cells. It affects Canadians of Asian, African, Mediterranean, Middle Eastern and Caribbean heritage. In 2005, it was estimated that over 2000 Ontarians are living with sickle cell disease and up to one in four from some specific cultural background carries the sickle cell trait. Most recent reports show that the incidence of SCD in Ontario is 1 in 2800 births (2015).

World Sickle Cell Day is observed on June 19 and has been recognized by the United Nation since 2008. On November 22, 2017, the Canadian government passed Bill S-211, enacting June 19th every year as "National Sickle Cell Awareness Day". World Sickle Cell Day was created to encourage global awareness and action to bring awareness through information, activities and concern. Globally, SCD has been recognized as a huge public health problem and

“one of the world’s foremost genetic diseases” (World Health Organization). According, to WHO there are nearly 100 million people throughout the world affected by SCD and 300 million people who carry the SCD trait.

We are requesting the City of Vaughan to sign a Proclamation to recognize World Sickle Cell Day on June 19, 2020. Our missions below are aligned with the aim of a proclamation:

- Increase public awareness of sickle cell disease
- The great importance of education on SCD and the importance of genetic testing. This *may* reduce the # of new births.
- Improved awareness will assist in patients realizing there is a community across Ontario
- To give hope, inspiration and empowerment to the individuals living with sickle cell disease.

We were very fortunate, in 2017, 2018 and 2019 to partner with the CN Tower, Exhibition Princess Gates, Niagara Falls, the City of Toronto, the City of Markham, City of Newmarket, City of Brampton, City of Mississauga, City of London, and many others to illuminate their landmarks. We found that there was a lot of people talking on social media platforms about the disease and requesting more information to help. We were also astounded by the amount of SCD patients who reached out to tell us the ways this initiative made them feel empowered and able to share their experiences with friends and co-workers. As we continue to find new ways to raise awareness and to dispel the stereotypes surrounding SCD, we push to recognize SCD patients who continue to live with the disease, as well as those who have lost their lives.

We would like to request that on June 19, 2020, the City of Vaughan sign/declare a proclamation to recognize World Sickle Day.

Thank you for taking the time to read this proclamation request. If you have any further questions, please don’t hesitate to message me. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best Regards,

Ika Washington, MSc.  
Communications and Marketing, Manager  
Ph: 647-975-0250 | E: [communication@sicklecellanemia.ca](mailto:communication@sicklecellanemia.ca)

**Organization’s Information**

Website Address: [www.sicklecellanemia.ca](http://www.sicklecellanemia.ca)

PH: 416-745-4267

Charitable Registration #: 83332 0872 RR0001