

## **CITY OF VAUGHAN**

### **EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 11, 2020**

Item 13, Report No. 11, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on March 11, 2020.

**13. PROCLAMATION AND FLAG RAISING REQUESTS - MS AWARENESS DAY, ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE DAY, EPILEPSY AWARENESS MONTH & PURPLE DAY, AND PARKINSON AWARENESS MONTH**

**The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendations contained in the following report of the Deputy City Manager, Administrative Services and City Solicitor, dated March 9, 2020:**

**Recommendations**

1. That May 6, 2020 be proclaimed as "MS Awareness Day" and that the City of Vaughan raise the MS flag at Vaughan City Hall on May 6, 2020 for the balance of the day;
2. That April 29, 2020 be proclaimed as "Israel's Independence Day" and that the City of Vaughan raise the national flag of Israel at Vaughan City Hall on April 30, 2020 for the balance of the day;
3. That the month of March 2020 be proclaimed as "Epilepsy Awareness Month" and March 26, 2020 as "Purple Day";
4. That the month of April 2020 be proclaimed as "Parkinson Awareness Month"; and,
5. That the proclamations be posted on the City's website and the Corporate and Strategic Communications department be directed to promote the above-noted proclamations and flag raisings through the various corporate channels.

## Committee of the Whole (2) Report

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**DATE:** Monday, March 09, 2020

**WARD(S):** ALL

**TITLE: PROCLAMATION AND FLAG RAISING REQUESTS:  
MS AWARENESS DAY, ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE DAY,  
EPILEPSY AWARENESS MONTH & PURPLE DAY, AND  
PARKINSON AWARENESS MONTH**

**FROM:**

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

**ACTION:** DECISION

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**Purpose**

To seek approval for proclamations and/or flag raising requests for: MS Awareness Day, Israel's Independence Day, Epilepsy Awareness Month & Purple Day, and Parkinson Awareness Month.

**Report Highlights**

- Respond to requests from the York Region Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Community, the Consulate General of Israel (Toronto and Western Canada), Epilepsy York Region and Parkinson Canada.
- Proclamations and flag raising events requested for dates between March and May 2020.

**Recommendations**

1. That May 6, 2020 be proclaimed as "MS Awareness Day" and that the City of Vaughan raise the MS flag at Vaughan City Hall on May 6, 2020 for the balance of the day;
2. That April 29, 2020 be proclaimed as "Israel's Independence Day" and that the City of Vaughan raise the national flag of Israel at Vaughan City Hall on April 30, 2020 for the balance of the day;

3. That the month of March 2020 be proclaimed as “Epilepsy Awareness Month” and March 26, 2020 as “Purple Day”;
4. That the month of April 2020 be proclaimed as “Parkinson Awareness Month”; and,
5. That the proclamations be posted on the City’s website and the Corporate and Strategic Communications department be directed to promote the above-noted proclamations and flag raisings through the various corporate channels.

## **Background**

### **MS Awareness Day**

Correspondence was received from the York Region MS Community on January 30, 2020 requesting a proclamation and flag raising.

The York Region MS Community services members in the York Region area with financial and equipment subsidies. The group is hoping that by creating further awareness of MS with events such as the proclamation and flag raising, funding to members will increase.

This request has been previously approved by Council.

### **Israel’s Independence Day**

Correspondence was received from the Consulate General of Israel (Toronto and Western Canada) on February 10, 2020 requesting a proclamation and flag raising.

On April 29, 2020, the State of Israel will be celebrating its 72<sup>nd</sup> Independence Day. A flag raising event at Vaughan City Hall was requested to accompany this special occasion.

This request has been previously approved by Council.

### **Epilepsy Awareness Month & Purple Day**

Correspondence was received from Epilepsy York Region on February 11, 2020 requesting a proclamation.

To combat the stigma surrounding those that have epilepsy may live with, the month of March, and specifically Purple Day (which is on March 26), has been celebrated internationally to raise awareness, dispel myths associated with epilepsy, and increase education.

This request has been previously approved by Council.

### **Parkinson Awareness Month**

Correspondence was received from Parkinson Canada on February 20, 2020 requesting a proclamation.

Currently in Ontario, there is an estimated 40,000 people living with this neurodegenerative disease, which is a nearly 50% increase in the prevalence of Parkinson's in the last fifteen years (as per Parkinson Canada). The group is requesting a proclamation to lend recognition to the importance of educating the public on Parkinson disease, as well as raising awareness.

This request has been previously approved by Council.

### **Previous Reports/Authority**

MS Awareness Day - [Committee of the Whole - March 5, 2019](#)

Israel's Independence Day - [Committee of the Whole - March 5, 2019](#)

Epilepsy Awareness Month & Purple Day - [Committee of the Whole - March 5, 2019](#)

Parkinson Awareness Month – [Committee of the Whole - March 2013](#)

### **Analysis and Options**

#### **MS Awareness Day**

The proclamation and flag raising request meets the requirements of the City's Proclamation Policy and Flag Raising/Half Masting Policy, as follows:

"That upon request, the City of Vaughan issue Proclamations for events, campaigns, or other similar matters: If the event, campaign or declaration is directly related to matters over which the City has jurisdictions or the City directly sponsors the event, campaign or other matter"; and

"Flags of non-partisan, non-profit, charitable organizations shall be flown at the City of Vaughan Civic Centre upon a written request to the City Clerk submitted one month in advance on the understanding that the individual flag will not be flown for a period longer than one week".

#### **Israel's Independence Day**

The proclamation and flag raising request meets the requirements of the City's Proclamation Policy and Flag Raising/Half Masting Policy, as follows:

“That upon request, the City of Vaughan issue Proclamations for events, campaigns, or other similar matters: If the event, campaign or declaration is directly related to matters over which the City has jurisdictions or the City directly sponsors the event, campaign or other matter”; and,

“In recognition of the ethnic diversity of the residents of the municipality the City of Vaughan will fly at the Civic Centre the flag of any nation, country or ethnic group on the national day or on the anniversary of a special occasion, upon a written request to the City Clerk submitted one month in advance by that nation, or ethnic group or its representatives”.

### **Epilepsy Awareness Month & Purple Day**

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

“That upon request, the City of Vaughan issue Proclamations for events, campaigns, or other similar matters: (i) which are promoted by any organization that is a registered charity pursuant to Section 248 of the Income Tax Act”.

### **Parkinson Awareness Month**

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

“That upon request, the City of Vaughan issue Proclamations for events, campaigns, or other similar matters: (i) which are promoted by any organization that is a registered charity pursuant to Section 248 of the Income Tax Act”.

### **Financial Impact**

There is no expected financial impact with respect to this request.

### **Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations**

Not applicable.

### **Conclusion**

Staff is recommending, having reviewed the requests in the order that they were received, that May 6, 2020 be proclaimed as MS Awareness Day and that the MS flag be raised at Vaughan City Hall on May 6, 2020; that April 29, 2020 be proclaimed as Israel’s Independence Day and the national flag of Israel be raised at Vaughan City Hall on April 30, 2020; that the month of March be proclaimed as Epilepsy Awareness Month and March 26 as Purple Day; that the month of April be proclaimed as Parkinson

Awareness Month; and finally, that the proclamations be posted on the City's website and the Corporate and Strategic Communications department be directed to promote the proclamations and flag raisings through the various corporate channels.

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

### **Attachments**

1. Correspondence from York Region MS Community, received on January 30, 2020.
2. Correspondence from the Director of Government Relations, Consulate General of Israel (Toronto and Western Canada), received on February 10, 2020.
3. Correspondence from the Executive Director, Epilepsy York Region, received on February 11, 2020.
4. Correspondence from the Community Development Coordinator (Central Ontario), Parkinson Canada, received on February 20, 2020.

### **Prepared by**

Julia Bartolomeo, Supervisor, City Clerk's Administrative Services, ext. 8280

YORK REGION  
**M**MULTIPLE **S**SCLEROSIS  
COMMUNITY

York Region MS Community  
9350 Yonge Street, P.O. Box 61528  
Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4C 0C9

RECEIVED

JAN 30 2020

CLERK'S DEPT.

Attention: Todd Coles  
City Clerk's Office

Dear Todd

I am sending you this letter as annual effort to put forth a Proclamation to council of making May 6th MS Day in the City of Vaughan. The York Region MS Community services hundreds of our members with financial and equipment subsidies each and every month. As you know, York Region is one of Canada's fastest growing regions and every week our membership grows with someone being diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. By creating awareness of MS, we will be able to increase our funding to our members and increase the involvement of York Region citizens in helping us fundraise. In order to achieve this goal, we would like to propose May 6th MS Day where the MS flag will be raised at the Vaughan City Hall. The flag raising event would boost the MS Awareness Campaign in Vaughan and allow us to reach out to more of our members and accomplish our mission. The York Region MS Community would greatly appreciate your continued support in the Flag Raising Event. This year's event will be our 7th MS Flag Raising Event at the City of Vaughan. May is MS Month! I look forward in speaking with you on this matter and to designating May 6th MS Awareness Day in the City of Vaughan.

Peter Busciglio  
York Region MS Community  
416.816.4787



RECEIVED

FEB 10 2020

CLERK'S DEPT.

February 4, 2020

Mr. Todd Coles  
City Clerk  
City of Vaughan  
2141 Major Mackenzie Dr.  
Maple, ON L6A 1T1

Dear Mr. Coles,

On April 29, 2020, the State of Israel will be celebrating its 72<sup>nd</sup> Independence Day. The Consulate General of Israel in Toronto and Western Canada asks you to consider this letter a formal request to have April 29, 2020 proclaimed as Israel's Independence Day and to host our annual flag-raising ceremony at Vaughan City Hall on April 30, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

We are inviting the members of Vaughan City Council to join with Vaughan's Israeli-Canadian and Jewish communities in celebrating this special occasion and the growing relationship between the State of Israel and the City of Vaughan. This year will be particularly significant as we are also celebrating a successful Vaughan Trade Mission to Israel that took place in November 2019.

The official ceremony, about an hour in length, will include the raising of the national flag of Israel, the singing of the national anthems of Canada and Israel, and remarks by the Mayor, City Councillors, the Consul General of Israel, and representatives of Vaughan's Jewish community. We also request the use of a lectern and speaker system during the ceremony.

I appreciate your taking the time to review our request and ask you to present it before Vaughan City Council. I look forward to hearing back from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Jordan Falkenstein  
Director of Government Relations



**Consulate General of Israel**  
Toronto and Western Canada



israelintoronto



@israelintoronto





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

**Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020**

Dear Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua,  
Epilepsy York Region (EYR) is a non-profit organization which supports individuals and their families living with epilepsy. For the last 32 years we have been advocating, supporting, educating, promoting public awareness and developing programs for those with epilepsy based on their needs. Currently, in York Region alone, there is estimated to be 11,000 individuals with epilepsy. This breaks down to 1 in every 100 people in our catchment area and makes it likely for someone to personally know at least one individual with epilepsy.

Although our resources and tools have worked to support so many across York Region living with epilepsy, the stigma that so many live with often outweighs the seizure itself. Many, especially children, are left feeling embarrassed, alone and isolated from their friends, peers and families. To combat this stigma, the month of March, and specifically Purple Day, which is celebrated on March 26<sup>th</sup> annually, has been marked internationally to raise awareness, dispel the myths associated to this disease, and to increase education. Purple Day invites those across the world to wear purple on March 26<sup>th</sup> in support of those with epilepsy and help those individuals understand they are not alone in their unknown ending battle with epilepsy.

It is an opportunity for those living with epilepsy to reach out and let the community know that seizures do not define who they are; they can still be a loving parent and spouse, a fun child, a productive employee, a learning student, a thriving talented individual and most of all, a friend.

We at Epilepsy York Region are reaching out to you, in hopes that Vaughan will proclaim March as epilepsy awareness month and March 26<sup>th</sup> as Purple Day. In addition, if there is a possibility of lighting a local landmark purple on March 26<sup>th</sup> showing your support, we would love to be part of this initiative!

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'C. Cozza'.

Claudia Cozza  
Executive Director  
Epilepsy York Region

**RECEIVED**

**FEB 11 2020**

**CLERK'S DEPT.**

**Bartolomeo, Julia**

**Subject:** FW: Proclamation Request: April | Parkinson Awareness Month  
**Attachments:** 2020 Sample Proclamation - Municipality\_ FR (1).docx; Proclamation\_Municipalities\_2020\_EN.DOCX

RECEIVED

FEB 20 2020

CLERK'S DEPT.

**From:** Courtney Willis <[Courtney.Willis@Parkinson.ca](mailto:Courtney.Willis@Parkinson.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 1:52 PM  
**To:** [Clerks@vaughan.ca](mailto:Clerks@vaughan.ca)  
**Subject:** Proclamation Request: April | Parkinson Awareness Month

Good afternoon,

April is Parkinson Awareness Month. Parkinson's is a disease of the brain that touches every aspect of daily living, including: movement, mood, speech, eating and drinking, sleep and cognitive changes. It worsens over time, resulting in a loss of independence and ultimately premature death. There is no known cause or cure for Parkinson's disease.

In Ontario today, an estimated, 40,000 people live with this condition. As the population ages, we continue to see significant increases in the prevalence of Parkinson's. In Ontario, we have seen a nearly 50% increase in the prevalence of Parkinson's in the last 15 years. Parkinson's is the fastest growing neurological condition in the world.

As a government we strive to provide the best care that we can to all of our citizens, but at times we must rely on community groups to bridge that gap. In Ontario, Parkinson Canada offers volunteer run support groups in 90 communities, education opportunities, access to Parkinson resources, a dedicated helpline and staff across the province to connect people living with Parkinson to community programs and resources that will support living better, no matter what. Parkinson Canada also offers education, advocacy, public awareness, and research provided for people affected by Parkinson's disease across Canada. In Ontario and across the country, Parkinson Canada is helping to ensure that no one faces Parkinson's alone.

**Parkinson Canada would be honored if you would sponsor an official proclamation to recognize the month of April as Parkinson Awareness Month. Your proclamation would lend official recognition to the important work of educating the public on Parkinson Disease, as well as emphasize your personal commitment to raising awareness about this neurodegenerative disease affected 100,000 Canadians.**

If you or your staff have any questions concerning the request, the sample proclamation or Parkinson Awareness Month, please contact me.

Thank you for your consideration of this special request.

**Courtney Willis**

Community Development Coordinator | Central Ontario

**PARKINSON CANADA**

316 - 4211 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M2P 2A9

1-800-565-3000 ext. 3326

[courtney.willis@parkinson.ca](mailto:courtney.willis@parkinson.ca) | [www.parkinson.ca](http://www.parkinson.ca)



It's thanks to **our loyal donors** that Parkinson Canada is [here for Canadians](#) with Parkinson's, no matter what. **And for this we thank them!**

C'est **grâce à nos fidèles donateurs** que Parkinson Canada est [présent pour les Canadiens](#) atteints de la maladie de Parkinson, quoi qu'il arrive. Et **pour cela nous sommes reconnaissants!**

Like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ParkinsonCanada](https://www.facebook.com/ParkinsonCanada) and follow us @ParkinsonCanada on Twitter.

**Proclamation  
April 2020  
World Parkinson's Day**

**WHEREAS** Parkinson's is a disease of the brain that touches almost every aspect of daily living including movement, mood, speech, eating, drinking, sleep, and cognition; and

**WHEREAS** Parkinson's is a progressive chronic disease that results in a loss of independence and premature death with no known cure; and

**WHEREAS** Parkinson's is the fastest-growing neurological condition in the world affecting 100,000 Canadians; and

**WHEREAS** the number of people diagnosed each day with Parkinson's in Canada will rise to over 50 in the next 10 years; and

**WHEREAS** Parkinson's is the most prevalent neurodegenerative movement disorder; and

**WHEREAS** Parkinson's disease impacts the lives of thousands of families and care partners; and

**WHEREAS** timely access to care and treatments makes the difference between living well and experiencing hardship; and

**WHEREAS** Parkinson Canada provides education, client services, research, and advocacy for people living with Parkinson's and care partners across Canada; and

**WHEREAS** community members must engage in helping friends, family and neighbours living with Parkinson's

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, \_\_\_\_\_, Mayor of \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2020 as "Parkinson's Awareness Month" and April 11<sup>th</sup> as "World Parkinson's Day" in \_\_\_\_\_, and urge all citizens of our community to become more educated and aware of the far-reaching effects of Parkinson's.



Proclamation  
Avril 2020  
Journée mondiale de la maladie de Parkinson

**ATTENDU QUE** la maladie de Parkinson est une maladie du cerveau qui touche tous les aspects de la vie quotidienne, y compris les mouvements, l'humeur, l'élocution, la capacité à boire et à manger, le sommeil et les capacités cognitives;

**ATTENDU QUE** la maladie de Parkinson est une maladie chronique évolutive qui entraîne une perte d'autonomie et un décès prématuré, sans remède connu;

**ATTENDU QUE** la maladie de Parkinson est la maladie neurologique qui connaît la croissance la plus rapide au monde, touchant 100 000 Canadiens; et

**ATTENDU QU'**au Canada, le nombre de nouveaux cas diagnostiqués chaque jour augmentera à plus de 50 pendant les 10 prochaines années;

**ATTENDU QUE** la maladie de Parkinson est le trouble du mouvement neurodégénératif le plus répandu; et

**ATTENDU QUE** la maladie de Parkinson touche la vie de milliers de familles et de proches aidants;

**ATTENDU QUE** l'accès en temps opportun aux soins et aux traitements fait la différence entre bien vivre et éprouver des difficultés;

**ATTENDU QUE** Parkinson Canada offre des activités de sensibilisation, des services à la clientèle, des activités de recherche et de défense des intérêts pour les personnes atteintes de la maladie de Parkinson et les proches aidants partout au Canada;

**ATTENDU QUE** les membres de la communauté doivent se mobiliser pour aider leurs amis, les membres de leur famille et leurs voisins atteints de la maladie de Parkinson

**POUR CES MOTIFS**, je, \_\_\_\_\_, maire de \_\_\_\_\_, proclame le mois d'avril 2020 comme étant le « Mois de la sensibilisation à la maladie de Parkinson » et le 11 avril comme étant la « Journée mondiale de la maladie de Parkinson » à \_\_\_\_\_, et exhorte tous les citoyens de notre communauté à mieux s'informer sur les répercussions considérables de la maladie de Parkinson.