

Deborah Liske

From: Diane Sharp (via Google Docs)
Sent: January-14-20 11:19 AM
To: Council
Subject: Proclamation Wording 2019

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT		
For Information:		
<input type="checkbox"/> CAO	<input type="checkbox"/> Mayor/Council	
<input type="checkbox"/>		
RECEIVED: JAN 15 2020		
Referred: <i>Rachel</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> For Action	<input type="checkbox"/> For Response	<input type="checkbox"/> COTW
<input type="checkbox"/> For Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Agenda	<input type="checkbox"/> IC

has shared a link to the following document:



Proclamation Wording 2019



Dear Township of Esquimalt Mayor Desjardins and Council,

March is Lymphedema Awareness Month. World Lymphedema Day is on March 6th. This event is now celebrated worldwide after initially being established in 2016, by the US Senate. I now ask that the Township of Esquimalt pass a resolution recognizing World Lymphedema Day.

Lymphedema is the most underdiagnosed conditions in the world. More people have it than MS, Parkinson's, ALS, Aids and muscular dystrophy combined. Worldwide, historical data estimates that 180-250 million people suffer from lymphedema, however, prevalence is often underestimated due to inconsistent clinical detection and definition, as well as inadequate disease tracking (ALNET). In 2017, it was estimated that upwards of 1 million people have lymphedema or chronic edema in Canada (CLN). Lymphedema can be hereditary or acquired as a result of cancer treatment or physical trauma. Up to 30% of women who survive breast cancer will get this debilitating disease that results in the accumulation of lymph fluid in the limbs when the lymphatic system is damaged. Similarly, survivors of cervical, prostate, testicular, bladder, colon, and head and neck cancers and melanoma are all susceptible. Our veterans suffer from this as a result of battle injury or trauma from surgery and our children are born with this disease. Currently, there is no cure and little help with essential daily compression garments or medical interventions from health insurance. The effects are lifelong, drastically affect quality of life and can lead to loss of limb function and even a shorten lifespan.

The Lymphatic Education & Research Network (LE&RN) is an International Organization that fights lymphedema and lymphatic diseases through education, research and advocacy. In Canada, the Canadian Lymphedema Network, a collaboration among health professionals, patients, researchers, and industries is working to raise awareness and promote improved treatment and diagnosis across Canada.

We need to bring attention to lymphatic diseases and lymphedema in our cities and province in hopes that new treatments will be discovered and so that we will one day have a cure. This all starts with public awareness.

I ask that you consider passing a city resolution and that the Mayor signs a proclamation recognizing March 6th as World Lymphedema Day.

If you have any questions or would like to speak further about this matter, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
 Gail Reichert,
 BC Lymphedema Association
 6979 Larkspur Road
 Sooke. BC

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Proclamation Wording 2019

For Municipalities

- Whereas lymphedema is a disease afflicting more than 300 million people worldwide (World Health Organization) with disfigurement, disabilities, discomfort, pain and distress; and
- Whereas approximately 1,000,000 Canadians are living and suffering with lymphedema, whether: primary- inherited, present at birth or manifesting itself later in life, from genetic factors; or secondary – developed from bodily trauma, such as cancer treatments, radiation therapy, major surgery, severe burns, or other injuries; and
- Whereas lymphedema is an accumulation of high-protein lymphatic fluid that causes swelling in the body that impairs mobility, function, can cause pain, significantly impact the quality of life and lead to severe infections or loss of use of limbs, for the affected person, regardless of age or gender; and
- Whereas there is currently no cure for lymphedema; and
- Whereas in recognition of the severe physical, emotional, psychosocial, and financial impacts and consequences lymphedema has on patients and families, it is time to support the courageous individuals living with this debilitating disease as well as their caregivers, both professionals and lay persons; and
- Whereas 2019 marks the fourth annual year, where World Lymphedema Day is observed and recognized throughout Canada and the world to increase public attention, awareness, and action related to this serious, chronic and progressive disease.