

"APRAXIA AWARENESS DAY"

- WHEREAS** May 14, 2019 marks the 6th annual Childhood Apraxia of Speech Day during which awareness will be raised throughout Canada about Childhood Apraxia of Speech, an extremely challenging speech disorder in children; and
- WHEREAS** Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS) causes children to have significant difficulty learning to speak and is among the most severe speech deficits in children; and
- WHEREAS** the act of learning to speak comes effortlessly to most children, those with apraxia endure an incredible and lengthy struggle; and
- WHEREAS** without appropriate speech therapy intervention, children with apraxia are placed at high risk for secondary impacts in reading, writing, spelling, and other school-related skills; and
- WHEREAS** that such primary and secondary impacts diminish future independence and employment opportunities if not resolved or improved; and
- WHEREAS** most children with apraxia of speech will learn to communicate with their very own voices only if they receive early intervention, appropriate, intensive, and frequent speech therapy; and
- WHEREAS** it is imperative there be greater public awareness about childhood apraxia of speech in Victoria among community members, physicians, education professionals, policy makers, and elected officials; and
- WHEREAS** policy makers, intervention program administrators, schools and insurance providers are encouraged to recognize the critical need to provide adequate speech therapy and other services so that the impact of this disorder is minimized and so that thousands of affected children can grow into productive, contributing adult citizens; and
- WHEREAS** our highest respect goes to these children, as well as their families, for their effort, determination and resilience in the face of such obstacles.

NOW, THEREFORE I do hereby proclaim May 14th, 2019 as "APRAXIA AWARENESS DAY" on the HOMELANDS of the SONGHEES AND ESQUIMALT PEOPLE in the CITY OF VICTORIA, CAPITAL CITY of the PROVINCE of BRITISH COLUMBIA

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this 9th day of May, Two Thousand and Nineteen.

**LISA HELPS
MAYOR
CITY OF VICTORIA
BRITISH COLUMBIA**

***Sponsored by:
Leticia Villalpando Benavides
Apraxia Kids Volunteer***