

**'AUTISM AWARENESS DAY'**

- WHEREAS** *Autism Spectrum Disorder is a developmental disability which occurs approximately 1 in every 68 births, the causes of which are not fully understood; and*
- WHEREAS** *Autism Spectrum Disorder, which is four times more common in boys than girls, may appear during the first three years of life and has been found throughout the world in families of all ethnic and social backgrounds; and*
- WHEREAS** *Autism Spectrum Disorder is a neuro-biological condition that affects brain development and is characterized by impairments in speech, communication, social interaction, and restrictive, repetitive behaviours; and*
- WHEREAS** *these characteristics may cause the person affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder to have challenges relating to people, objects and events; and*
- WHEREAS** *early intervention for young children with Autism Spectrum Disorder may assist them in developing communication and other skills, resulting in more meaningful participation in their communities; and*
- WHEREAS** *children and families affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder can benefit from community supports and, with this assistance, an increasing number of adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder may be able to live and work independently; and*
- WHEREAS** *the Canucks Autism Network delivers high calibre programs and services to the children, families and communities dealing with the affects of Autism, and by encouraging friendship, understanding and social responsibility through the creation of mentoring and friendship opportunities, and in support of the designation by the Resolution Adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, has set that April 2<sup>nd</sup>, shall be designated as World Autism Awareness Day.*

**NOW, THEREFORE** I do hereby proclaim the day of April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 as "**AUTISM AWARENESS DAY**" on the **TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES** of the **ESQUIMALT AND SONGHEES FIRST NATIONS** in the **CITY OF VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA**.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I hereunto set my hand this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March, Two Thousand and Seventeen.

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

**Sponsored by:  
Corry Brooks  
on behalf of  
Autism Speaks Canada**



## Committee of the Whole Report For the Meeting of March 23, 2017

**To:** Committee of the Whole

**Date:** March 15, 2017

**From:** Chris Coates

**Subject:** Proclamation "Autism Awareness Day" April 2, 2017

### RECOMMENDATION

That the "Autism Awareness Day" April 2, 2017 Proclamation be forwarded to the March 23, 2017 Council meeting for Council's consideration.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Attached as Appendix A is the requested Autism Awareness Day Proclamation. Council has recently established new policy addressing proclamation requests. The policy provides for:

- A staff report to Committee of the Whole.
- Each Proclamation request requiring a motion approved at Committee of the Whole prior to forwarding it to Council for their consideration.
- Staff providing Council with a list of Proclamations made in the previous year.
- Council voting on each Proclamation individually.
- Council's consideration of Proclamations is to fulfil a request rather than taking a position.

A list of 2016 and 2017 Proclamations is provided as Appendix B in accordance with the new policy. Consistent with City Policy, Proclamations issued are established as fulfilling a request and does not represent an endorsement of the content of the Proclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Havelka".

Christine Havelka  
Deputy City Clerk

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Coates".

Chris Coates  
City Clerk

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jocelyn Jenkyns".

Jocelyn Jenkyns  
Deputy City Manager

**Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

*March 16, 2017*

Appendix A: Proclamation "Autism Awareness Day"

Appendix B: List of Previously 2016 and 2017 Proclamations