

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MAY 16, 2005**

### **PROCLAMATION – BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH JUNE 2005**

#### **Recommendation**

The City Clerk recommends:

- 1) That June be proclaimed as “BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH”; and
- 2) That the proclamation be posted on the City’s website, published on the City Page, space permitting, and that staff issue a news release.

#### **Economic Impact**

Not applicable

#### **Purpose**

To respond to the request received from the Steering Committee of the York Region Head Injury Support Group, dated May 6, 2005.

#### **Background - Analysis and Options**

A request has been received from the Steering Committee of York Region Head Injury Support Group to proclaim June as “Brain Injury Awareness Month” (Attachment #1).

The proclamation request meets the requirements of the City’s Proclamation Policy: *“That upon request, the City of Vaughan issue proclamations for events, campaigns or other similar matters: which are promoted by any organization that is a registered charity pursuant to Section 248 of the Income Tax Act”.*

The Steering Committee of the York Region Head Injury Support Group has requested the City publicize this proclamation to raise local awareness about brain injuries. The Corporate Communications Department posts proclamations issued by the City on the City’s website under “Events – Proclamations”. Publishing proclamations on the City Page depends on space availability.

#### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007**

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

#### **Conclusion**

Staff is recommending the month of June 2005 be proclaimed as “Brain Injury Awareness Month” and that the proclamation be posted on the City’s website and published on the City Page, space permitting.

**Attachments**

Attachment #1 - Correspondence from the Steering Committee of the York Region Head Injury Support Group, dated May 6, 2005

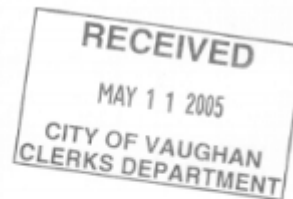
**Report prepared by:**

John D. Leach, City Clerk

Respectfully submitted,

John D. Leach, City Clerk

York Region Head Injury Support Group  
11181 Yonge St. 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
Richmond Hill, ON L4S 1L2  
905-780-1236



May 6, 2005

Mayor Michael Di Biase & Council for City of Vaughan:

I am writing on behalf of the York Region Head Injury Support Group. We are a group of people from across York Region who live with the effects of brain injuries. Because of our personal experiences with the issues and problems caused by such injuries, we recognize the need to prevent brain injuries as well as assist those who sustain brain injuries to live with dignity in their communities and develop to their highest potential.

**We are requesting that you proclaim June 2005 as "Brain Injury Awareness Month" in the City of Vaughan.**

Brain injury is the leading cause of death and disability in young people.

In York Region, approximately 1,152 individuals sustain a brain injury each year. About 243 of these are children (0-14). Caused by falls, motor vehicle accidents, infections, bicycle accidents, drug abuse, tumours, strokes, aneurisms, and other causes, it is estimated that annual costs associated with brain injury are more than \$1 billion in Ontario.

In addition to financial costs, brain injuries result in a variety of physical, cognitive, and social/emotional impairments. The York Region Head Injury Support Group works to support those York Region residents whose lives have been impacted by brain injury. We are affiliated with the Ontario Brain Injury Association (Charitable Reg. #10779 7904RR0001). June 2005 is "Brain Injury Awareness Month" in the Province of Ontario. Please help us raise local awareness about brain injuries by proclaiming June 2005 as "Brain Injury Awareness Month" in the City of Vaughan.

Thank you.

York Region Head Injury Support Group  
Steering Committee

DiPonio, Sandra



**From:** yrhisg [yrhisg@sympatico.ca]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2005 4:47 PM  
**To:** Di Biase, Michael  
**Subject:** June is Brain Injury Awareness Month  
**Attachments:** Juneis.Vaughan.doc; JuneisMsg.rtf; JuneisFly.rtf

Again, I am writing on behalf of the York Region Head Injury Support Group. We really appreciated your support in 2004. As you know, we are a group of people from across York Region who live with the effects of brain injuries. Because of our personal experiences with the issues and problems caused by such injuries, we recognize the need to prevent brain injuries as well as assist those who sustain brain injuries to live with dignity in their communities and develop to their highest potential.

**Please accept our request for proclamation of June as "Brain Injury Awareness Month" again this year.**

Attached here, you will find:

-- A request that you declare June as "Brain Injury Awareness Month".

-- The message we are trying to share with our community through the month of June and always. Please pass it on! It can be included in various newsletters at local schools, churches, youth groups, community centres, clubs, tenants' associations, web sites, anywhere it can reach members of our community. Please help us share this important message with our community!

-- A flyer telling about our upcoming gathering or "Vigil" on June 1st at 8:00 pm at the Loyal True Blue & Orange Building, 11181 Yonge St. (east side of Yonge St., north of Elgin Mills) in Richmond Hill, to highlight "June is Brain Injury Awareness Month". Please share it as well. To many members of our community, "brain injury" is just some words, a "condition" that happens to someone else. With this event, we hope to demonstrate that brain injury touches all of us and the issues are everyone's. We cordially invite you to join us for this event. Please join us for just an hour on June 1st. It will be a simple event -- a few words, lighting candles, and acknowledging the many folks who live with the effects of brain injury in our community.

We look forward to seeing you on June 1st!

Sincerely,

Steering Committee of the York Region Head Injury Support Group

5/9/2005

## June is: Brain Injury Awareness Month

*Brain injury is **everyone's** responsibility!*

Brain injury is the leading cause of death and disability in young people! These injuries often result in a variety of physical, cognitive, and social/emotional impairments. Falls are the most common cause of brain injuries, followed by motor vehicle accidents, sports-related injuries, assaults, etc. Most of these incidents are preventable or their impact can be greatly reduced. Brain injuries can also be caused by events like strokes, tumours and aneurisms.

*What can **you** do about brain injuries?*

- < **Always** wear a helmet when you participate in sports (horse riding, baseball, football, hockey, etc.) or are "on wheels" (bicycle, motor bike, skateboard, roller blades, snowmobile, etc.).
- < **Always** use seat belts and child car seats when driving.
- < **Never** shake a baby or small child.
- < **Never** take alcohol or drugs before operating any kind of vehicle.
- < **Always** practise safety and work to prevent the possibility of accidents, falls, and violence at home, school, work, and elsewhere.
- < **Learn** about brain injury issues -- to prevent brain injuries, to minimize the impact of those injuries that do happen, and to be understanding and supportive of people that live with the consequences of brain injuries in our community.

*A message from the York Region Head Injury Support Group\*. Call 905-780-1236 for more information.*

\* Affiliated with the Ontario Brain Injury Association 1-800-263-5404