

**PROCLAMATION REQUEST –  
FIBROMYALGIA AND CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY**

**Recommendation**

The City Clerk recommends:

- 1) That May 12, 2005 be proclaimed as “Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Awareness Day” 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.

**Purpose**

To respond to the request received from Gisella Imbrogno, on behalf of York Region Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Wellness Support Group, in association with FM-CFS Association of Canada and Compassion in Action.

**Background - Analysis and Options**

The correspondence received from Gisella Imbrogno, dated April 11, 2005, is attached (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 purpose of this proclamation is to raise public awareness of this disease which afflicts about 8% of the population. 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. Corporate Communications will, given sufficient lead-time, issue news releases in support of the proclamation.

**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 May 12, 2005 be proclaimed as “Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Awareness Day” and that the proclamation be posted on the City’s website and published on the City Page, space permitting.

**Attachments**

- Attachment #1 - Correspondence from Gisella Imbrogno, on behalf of York Region Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Wellness Support Group, in association with FM-CFS Association of Canada and Compassion in Action, dated April 11, 2005,

**Report prepared by:**

John D. Leach, City Clerk

Respectfully submitted,

John D. Leach, City Clerk

Attachment #1

TO: Mayor Michael DiBiase  
City of Vaughan, Ontario Canada

April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2005

FROM: Gisella Imbrogno = phone (905)884-6169 fax:(905)884-8348 on behalf of  
York Region Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Wellness Support Group,  
In association with FM-CFS Association of Canada, toll free # 1-877-437-4673  
[www.fm-cfs.ca](http://www.fm-cfs.ca) -Compassion in Action- 480 Somerset St.W.,Ottawa K1R 5J8  
Charitable registration (# 89241-7742-RR0001).

Dear Mr. Mayor,

I am writing to you to ask only for your moral support for the cause which affects many of your citizens in very personal ways and our society in dramatic ways.

"Fibromyalgia" (FM) and "Chronic Fatigue Syndrome" (CFS) afflict about 8% of the population. Some of the major symptoms include chronic persistent musculo-skeletal pain, intense unexplainable fatigue, depressed immune system and many various forms of cognitive impairments including loss of reading skills and concentration abilities.

The reality of living with these issues and many more that are always changing in duration and intensity, is that the families, friends and employers are affected by it too. It is a root cause for many other social and economic problems. It is increasingly becoming more serious. Most of the now (1) million people with these conditions are spread across Canada. Reported cases show that 15% are males. Females however can be afflicted as early as teenagers and into child-bearing years threatening the physical and mental health of Canadian mothers and their children.

Unfortunately it could happen to anyone at any time for a multitude of reasons. The cause is yet "unknown" as is the "cure"! Even an effective lasting treatment eludes us. Recently with many able-bodied workers, there is a national coalition of organizations concerned with these illnesses working together to improve public awareness, implement medical research and education, make legal changes and explore treatment options.

We encourage and welcome you and the Town Council to join hundreds of other mayors in Canada and worldwide in recognizing May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2005 as "Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Awareness Day".

With visionary support from people like you and other leaders, we hope to fight this illness which affects 1 in 10 families and harms our community in many ways. We are working hard at many levels to effect changes that will help people coping with these "invisible illnesses". We greatly appreciate and thank you for your support.

Ms. Gisella Imbrogno @ 235 Jefferson Sideroad, Richmond Hill L4E 3N5