

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – MAY 5, 2008

PROCLAMATION REQUEST – FIBROMYALGIA AND CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY MAY 12, 2008

Recommendation

The Deputy City Clerk in consultation with the Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services/City Solicitor recommends:

- 1) That May 12, 2008 be proclaimed as “**Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Awareness Day**”; and
- 2) That the proclamation be posted on the City’s website and published on the City Page, space permitting.

Economic Impact

N/A

Communications Plan

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.

Purpose

To respond to the request received from 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 York Region Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Wellness Support Group, in association with FM-CFS Association of Canada and Compassion in Action, dated April 18, 2008, is attached (Attachment #1).

The proclamation request meets the City’s Proclamation Policy, as follows:

“That upon request, the City of Vaughan issue Proclamations for events, campaigns or other similar matters:

- (i) which are promoted by any organization that is a registered charity pursuant to Section 248 of the Income Tax Act”

The York Region Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Wellness Support Group, in association with FM-CFS Association of Canada have requested the City publicize this proclamation in an effort to promote awareness of this debilitating disease. Council has approved this proclamation in previous years.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

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

Regional Implications

N/A

Conclusion

Staff is recommending that May 12, 2008 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 received from York Region Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Wellness Support Group, in association with FM-CFS Association of Canada and Compassion in Action, dated April 18, 2008

Report prepared by:

Connie Bonsignore, Admin Assistant to City Clerk

Respectfully submitted,

Sybil Fernandes,
Deputy City Clerk

Janice Atwood-Petkovski,
Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services

From: Gisella Imbrogno Phone: 905-884-6162**RECEIVED**
Fax: 905-884-3344Attention: CLERK on behalf of Date: April 18/08
MAYOR. CITY OF VAUGHAN
CLERKS DEPARTMENT
Fax # _____ Phone # _____ Page # 2Re: FIBROMYALGIA AWARENESS DAYPEEL/DURHAM AND
C.C. YORK REGION MAYORS. reply: ASAP by fax _____ by phone _____ not req'd

Hello -

- On behalf of the
York Region Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue
Wellness Support Group -

we thank you in advance for your continuing
moral support with regards to proclaiming
May 12th as "Fibromyalgia + Chronic Fatigue
Awareness Day" (see attached letter.)

- On May 12th /2008, we will be at Queens
Park with our local MPP as he will state
by provincial declaration that May 12th
be forever designated as such. Afterwards
we will meet for a press conference.

- If you or any of your staff wish to join
with us on that day, we will be very
pleased to have your support. Please let
me know since the bus we have booked
only holds 45 people. (first come, first served
or maybe you wish to come with your
own vehicle. Thank you - Gisella

April 18, 2008

To: Mr. Mayor and Council

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 -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 12th, 2008 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 affect 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

