

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SEPTEMBER 29, 2009**

**PROCLAMATION REQUEST  
LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH – OCTOBER 2009**

**Recommendation**

The City Clerk recommends:

- 1) That October 2009 be proclaimed as “Lupus Awareness Month”; and
- 2) That the proclamation be posted on the City’s website and published on the City Page Online.

**Contribution to Sustainability**

N/A

**Economic Impact**

N/A

**Communications Plan**

The Corporate Communications Department posts proclamations issued by the City on the City’s website under “Events – Proclamations” and on the City Page Online.

**Purpose**

To respond to the request received from Lupus Foundation of Ontario.

**Background - Analysis and Options**

The correspondence received from Lupus Foundation of Ontario, dated September 9, 2009 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”

For the past 33 years, Lupus Foundation of Ontario has been assisting citizens of Ontario affected by this serious illness. Lupus Foundation of Ontario is requesting this proclamation to raise public awareness, educate citizens and raise funds to support much-needed and valued research to find a cure for this disease.

**Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan**

This report supports the strategic priorities established by Vaughan Vision 2020, in particular “Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health and Wellness”.

**Regional Implications**

N/A

**Conclusion**

Staff is recommending that October 2009 be proclaimed as "Lupus Awareness Month", and that the proclamation be posted on the City's website and the City Page Online.

**Attachments**

Attachment      Correspondence received from Lupus Foundation of Ontario, dated September 9, 2009

**Report prepared by:**

Connie Bonsignore, Administrative Assistant to City Clerk

Respectfully submitted,

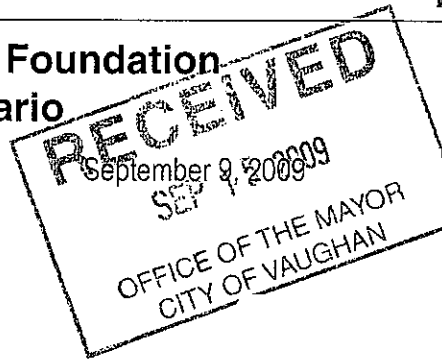
Jeffrey A. Abrams  
City Clerk



Honorary Patron:

The Hon. David C. Onley  
Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

**Lupus Foundation  
of Ontario**



294 Ridge Road N Box 687  
Ridgeway ON L0S 1N0  
(800) 368-8377 ON Only  
(905) 894-4611  
(905) 894-4616  
lupusont@vaxxine.com  
Website: www.vaxxine.com/lupus  
Serving Ontario since 1977 (Inc.)

Mayor & Council Members  
City of Vaughan  
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive  
Vaughan ON L6A 1T1

**Attachment 1**

Re: **"October is Lupus Awareness Month"**



Dear Mayor & Council Members:

*Lupus Foundation of Ontario* has been serving the citizens of Ontario for the past 33 years. During this time, we have noticed an alarming increase in the numbers of those seeking information for their health concerns. Many requests are from parents of young children and adolescents who have been positively diagnosed with systemic lupus.

We would like to request that you read our Proclamation during a Council meeting to inform everyone in your community that lupus is a serious illness that, unfortunately, many are still unaware. We receive no funding from governmental sources and our public awareness campaigns are most efficient through our grass roots initiatives.


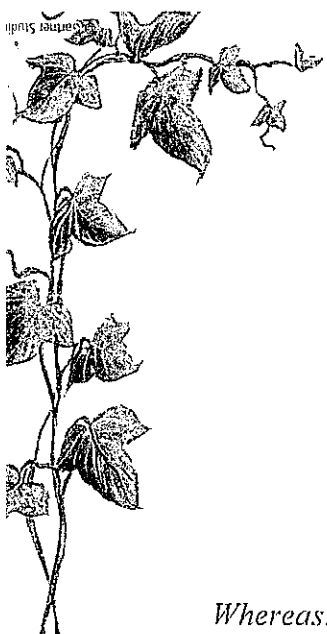
There are many Ontarians who have been diagnosed with lupus throughout our province. By reading our Proclamation during your meeting and by declaring **October as Lupus Awareness Month**, you will greatly assist our Foundation in educating all citizens that our Foundation exists and that help is just a telephone call away.

Each month, over 250,000 hits are recorded on our website. Through personal and corporate donations, Memoriam contributions and membership fees, we have donated in excess of \$1,400,000 over the years for much-needed and valued research.

Your assistance with this awareness initiative will allow us to help others to help themselves. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Kathy Crowhurst



**LUPUS FOUNDATION OF ONTARIO**  
**294 Ridge Road North Ridgeway Ontario LOS INO**  
**800~368~8377**

**PROCLAMATION**  
**Lupus Awareness Month**  
**October, 2009**

*Whereas: Lupus is an autoimmune disease that can cause severe damage to the tissue and organs in the body and, in some cases, death; and*

*Whereas: More than five million people worldwide suffer the devastating effects of this disease and each year over one hundred thousand young women, men and children are newly diagnosed with lupus, the great majority of whom are women of childbearing age; and*

*Whereas: Medical research efforts into lupus and the discovery of safer, more effective treatments for lupus patients are under-funded in comparison with diseases of comparable magnitude and severity; and*

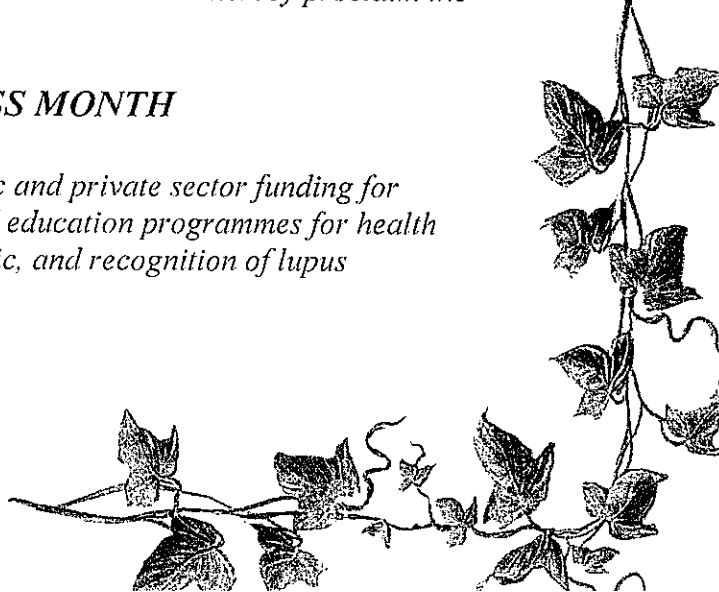
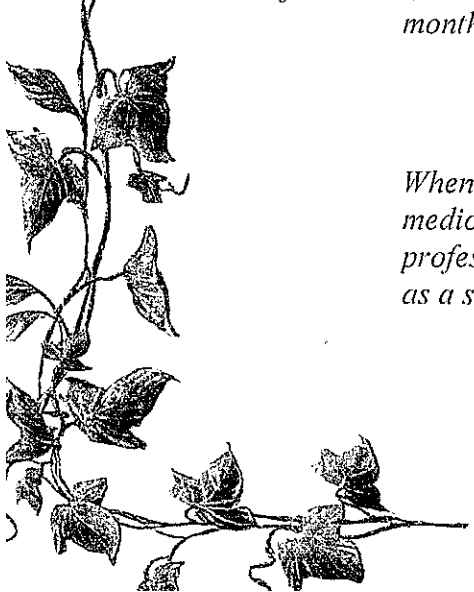
*Whereas: Many physicians are unaware of symptoms and health effects of lupus, causing people with lupus to suffer for many years before they obtain a correct diagnosis and medical treatment; and*

*Whereas: There is a deep, unmet need to educate and support individuals and families affected by lupus; and*

*Whereas: There is an urgent need to increase awareness in communities of the debilitating impact of lupus;*

Now  
Therefore I, hereby proclaim the  
month of October 2009 as:

**LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH**



*When we request increases in public and private sector funding for medical research on lupus, targeted education programmes for health professionals, patients and the public, and recognition of lupus as a significant public health issue.*