

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MARCH 23, 2010**

### **PROCLAMATION REQUEST PARKINSON'S DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH**

#### **Recommendation**

The City Clerk recommends:

- 1) That April 2010 be proclaimed as "Parkinson's Disease 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 the Community Development Coordinator, York-Simcoe, Parkinson Society Central & Northern Ontario.

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

The correspondence received from the Community Development Coordinator, York-Simcoe, Parkinson Society Central & Northern Ontario, dated February 22, 2010 is attached. (Attachment 1)

Parkinson's disease is a chronic and progressive neurodegenerative illness that affects over 100,000 Canadians. The Parkinson Society Canada Central & Northern Ontario would like to raise awareness and encourage support during their fundraising efforts in communities across Ontario and help find a cure for this debilitating disease. Council has approved this proclamation request in the past.

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 Canadian Cancer Society is a registered charity.

**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 April 2010 be proclaimed as "Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month" and that the proclamation be posted on the City's website and published on the City Page Online.

**Attachments**

Attachment 1: Correspondence from the Parkinson Society Central & Northern Ontario, dated February 22, 2010

**Report prepared by:**

Connie Bonsignore, Administrative Assistant

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey A. Abrams  
City Clerk



Parkinson Society Central & Northern Ontario  
Société Parkinson du Centre et du Nord de l'Ontario

4211 Yonge Street, Suite 321  
Toronto, ON M2P 2A9  
Ph: (416) 227-1200  
Toll Free: (800) 565-3000  
www.cno.parkinson.ca

Charitable registration number 10809 1786 RR0001

February 22, 2010

Attachment 1

Mr. Jeffrey Abrams  
Vaughan City Clerk  
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive  
Vaughan, ON L6A 1T1

Dear Mr. Abrams,

On behalf of the 100,000 Canadians living with Parkinson's disease, I am requesting your help in raising awareness about this debilitating disease by declaring the month of April as "*Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month*" in Vaughan.

Throughout the month of April, Parkinson Society Central and Northern Ontario will be fundraising in communities across Ontario, encouraging people to become involved and help ease the burden and find a cure for Parkinson's.

I invite the city of Vaughan and mayor Jackson to join the effort to educate your community about this life-altering disease by proclaiming April as "Parkinson's Awareness Month".

Parkinson's is a chronic and progressive neurodegenerative illness that slowly but dramatically robs people of their independence over time. For most affected, their minds remain sharp while they endure an ever-changing combination of tremors, slowness, stiffness, balance problems, speech problems, rigid muscles, and pain. Many have difficulty walking, talking, and/or swallowing. Parkinson's Society Canada is a national organization that helps to ease the burden and find a cure through research, education, advocacy and support services to improve the quality of life for those affected by Parkinson's disease.

Thank you for considering our request to proclaim "April as Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month". Enclosed you'll find a copy of Parkinson Society Canada's Proclamation. I will contact you shortly, however, should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Regards,

Jon Collins  
Community Development Coordinator, York-Simcoe  
For John Scaini

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Parkinson Society Canada | Since  
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1965

## MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

### “April is Parkinson’s disease Awareness Month”

- WHEREAS:** Parkinson’s disease affects over 100,000 Canadians, and 6.3 million people worldwide – men and women from all ethnic backgrounds. Although the average age of onset is 60, it also affects people as young as 30 and 40.
- WHEREAS:** There is no cure. There are many promising research projects under way, including finding and understanding the causes and developing better treatments. The most common symptoms are: tremor, slowness and stiffness, balance problems and/or rigidity of the muscles, fatigue, soft speech and depression.
- WHEREAS:** Parkinson Society Canada is the national voice of Canadians living with Parkinson’s. Its purpose is to ease the burden and find a cure through research, education, advocacy and support services.
- WHEREAS:** Through its partnerships with twelve regional partners, health care professionals, research associations, and volunteers, Parkinson Society Canada touches every community across the country.
- WHEREAS:** Parkinson Society Canada has funded approximately \$17 million dollars in research grants in its quest to find a cure for Parkinson’s disease.
- NOW THEREFORE:** I, \_\_\_\_\_, Mayor of the City of \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby proclaim April 2010 as “Parkinson’s Disease Awareness Month” and encourage everyone to support Parkinson Society Canada during this campaign