

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SEPTEMBER 13, 2011**

**PROCLAMATION AND FLAG RAISING REQUEST  
LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH – OCTOBER 2011**

**Recommendation**

The City Clerk recommends:

- 1) That October 2011 be proclaimed as “Lupus Awareness Month”;
- 2) That the Lupus Flag be raised in the City of Vaughan for a period no longer than one week in accordance with the Flag Raising/Half Masting Policy; and
- 3) 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 June 22, 2011 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”

Lupus Foundation of Ontario for the past 35 years has been assisting citizens affected by this serious illness. Lupus Foundation of Ontario is requesting the proclamation and flag raising in an effort 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 2011 be proclaimed as "Lupus Awareness Month", that the Lupus Flag be raised in the City of Vaughan for a period no longer than one week in accordance with the Flag Raising/Half Masting Policy; and that the proclamation be posted on the City's website and published on the City Page Online.

### **Attachments**

Attachment      Correspondence received from Lupus Foundation of Ontario, dated June 22, 2011

### **Report prepared by**

Connie Bonsignore, Administrative Assistant to City Clerk

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey A. Abrams  
City Clerk

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Attachment 1



Honorary Patron:

The Hon. David C. Onley  
Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

## Lupus Foundation of Ontario

June 22, 2011

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

RECEIVED JUL 05 2011 *Jan*

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

Dear Mayor & Council Members:

**Lupus Foundation of Ontario** has been serving the citizens of Ontario for the past 35 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 receive no funding from governmental sources and we have found that our public awareness campaigns are most efficient through our grass roots initiatives.

We would like to request that you:

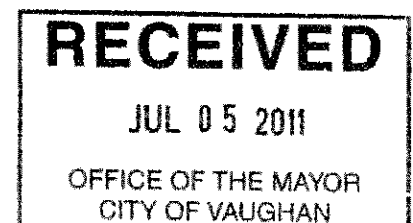
- Read our Proclamation during a Council meeting to inform everyone in your community that lupus is a serious illness that, unfortunately, is still an unknown to many.
- Hold a flag-raising with our lupus flag. Any date or month would allow for visibility and recognition of the word 'lupus'.
- Place our Proclamation on your community website for those seeking a diagnosis and information about their symptoms.
- Sign and return the Proclamation to our office for display.

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.

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

Very truly yours,

  
Kathy Crowhurst



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**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 a 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 worldwide are unaware of symptoms and the 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 worldwide to educate and support individuals and families affected by lupus; and

**Whereas**, there is an urgent need to increase awareness in communities worldwide of the debilitating impact of lupus;

**Now, Therefore, Be it resolved that October 2011** is hereby designated as "October is Lupus Awareness Month" when lupus organizations around the world call for increases in public and private sector funding for medical research on lupus, targeted education programmes for health professionals, patients and the public, and worldwide recognition of lupus as a significant public health issue.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed

(To receive information about lupus, or to make a donation that will be used for much-needed research funding or public awareness initiatives, please contact Lupus Foundation of Ontario at 800-368-8377.) "Walk for Lupus" takes place every May throughout Ontario.