



Honorary Patron:

The Hon. David C. Onley
Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

Lupus Foundation of Ontario

February 19, 2014

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Serving Ontario since 1977 (Inc.)

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To Whom It May Concern:

The international lupus patient community is requesting your assistance in promoting public awareness and advocacy for "the least known major disease – lupus". We have two very important events planned for 2014 which are: **World Lupus Day, May 10th** and the entire month of October which is known, world-wide, as "**October is Lupus Awareness Month**".

Lupus affects more than just the person diagnosed with the disease – it also impacts their family, friends and colleagues. It is widely under-recognized as a global health problem by the public, health professionals and governments which drives the need for greater awareness. Early recognition and a definitive diagnosis help to slow the debilitating effects of this disease. Proper treatment, a healthy diet and lifestyle are essential. Lupus is difficult to diagnose as the symptoms frequently mimic common illnesses. With your help, public awareness and education will save lives.

We are enclosing two Proclamations, for May and October that we ask to be added to your municipal websites for all citizens to access. We know that many are unaware of the signs and symptoms of lupus and it is our hope to make every person aware that their vague health concerns could be lupus.

Our office has been located in Ridgeway for the past forty years. Receiving no funding from any level of government, we depend upon personal and corporate donations to provide our programmes, attend provincial Health Fairs, contribute financially to much-valued research, and distribute literature throughout Ontario to all those who request information.

In the past, we have received amazing support from many communities in Ontario who do read our Proclamations during televised meetings for their viewers, and add the Proclamation to their websites in the designated months. Many have passed resolutions to ask their local MPs and MPPs to assist with lupus funding for research.

We would be honoured to have your support for both of these events. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Kathy Crowhurst

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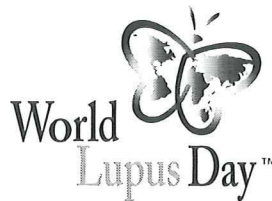
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Whereas, lupus is an autoimmune disease that can cause severe damage to the tissue and organs in the body and, in some cases, death; and

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 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 **10 May 2014** is hereby designated as **World Lupus Day** on which lupus organizations around the globe call for increases in public and private sector funding for medical research on lupus, targeted education programs for health professionals, patients and the public and worldwide recognition of lupus as a significant public health issue.

Proclaimed This Day, 10 May 2014



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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 2014** is hereby designated as “**October is Lupus Awareness Month**” during which lupus organizations around the globe call for increases in public and private sector funding for medical research on lupus, targeted education programs for health professionals, patients and the public and worldwide recognition of lupus as a significant public health issue.

Proclaimed this day during October 2014