

CANADIAN PROCLAMATION REQUEST

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Mayor Fred Eisenberger and Members of Council
Hamilton City Hall 2nd Floor – 71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario, L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Fred Eisenberger and Members of Council,

I am writing to request that you proclaim May 14th as Apraxia Awareness Day. Childhood apraxia of speech is a very misunderstood and very challenging speech disorder and our kids need your help.

Now going into its sixth year, Apraxia Awareness Day aims to unite community members, children with childhood apraxia of speech, their friends and family on May 14th to be an unstoppable, united force advocating for children with childhood apraxia of speech.

By issuing this proclamation you will not only be showing that you support all of your constituents, but you will also help to raise awareness for a complicated speech disorder that affects nearly 1-in-1,000 children.

I am a volunteer with Apraxia Kids, the leading nonprofit dedicated to childhood apraxia of speech. We do many things here in Hamilton, Ontario to try to raise awareness and understanding about childhood apraxia of speech, and we hope you will issue a proclamation to help us further the cause of raising awareness.

For your convenience, a sample proclamation is attached. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, or to confirm that you will proclaim May 14th as Apraxia Awareness Day.

As of today, the HAMILTON sign will be lit blue on May 1st to kick off Apraxia Awareness Month and Niagara Falls will be lit blue on May 14th for Apraxia Awareness Day. A proclamation would mean so much to the Apraxia community.

Warmest regards,

Malwina Stemmler

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SAMPLE PROCLAMATION FOR APRAXIA AWARENESS DAY

Whereas, May 14th marks Childhood Apraxia of Speech Day during which awareness will be raised throughout Canada about Childhood Apraxia of Speech, an extremely challenging speech disorder in children.

Whereas, Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS) causes children to have significant difficulty learning to speak and is among the most severe speech deficits in children.

Whereas, the act of learning to speak comes effortlessly to most children, those with apraxia endure an incredible and lengthy struggle.

Whereas, without appropriate speech therapy intervention, children with apraxia are placed at high risk for secondary impacts in reading, writing, spelling, and other school-related skills.

Whereas, that such primary and secondary impacts diminish future independence and employment opportunities if not resolved or improved.

Whereas, most children with apraxia of speech will learn to communicate with their very own voices only if they receive early intervention, appropriate, intensive, and frequent speech therapy.

Whereas, it is imperative that there be greater public awareness about childhood apraxia of speech in Hamilton, Ontario among community members, physicians, education professionals, policy makers, and elected officials.

Whereas, funders such as policy makers, intervention program administrators, school boards and insurance providers are encouraged to recognize the critical need to provide adequate speech therapy and other services so that the impact of this disorder is minimized and so that thousands of affected children can grow into productive, contributing adult citizens.

Whereas, our highest respect goes to these children, as well as their families, for their effort, determination and resilience in the face of such obstacles.

Let it be resolved, that May 14th is "Apraxia Awareness Day" and citizens of Hamilton, Ontario are encouraged to work within their communities to increase awareness and understanding of Childhood Apraxia of Speech.