

Honorable

Request for Proclamation

Dear Mayor / Council Member

I am writing to request your proclamation of the month of October as Rett Syndrome Awareness Month.

Rett Syndrome is a rare genetic neurological disorder that affects mainly females (1 in 10,000 births) and is caused by a mutation in the X chromosome. Individuals with Rett syndrome will lose some if not most acquired skills including speech, and gross and fine motor skills. Some never develop the ability to walk or even talk.

This observance gives us a means to focus attention in making it possible for to continue public awareness and advocacy, provide parent/family support, and show individuals with Rett Syndrome that they have their community support.

Thank you for taking the time to consider recognizing and supporting Rett Syndrome Awareness Month.

Sincerely,

PROCLAMATION

October as Rett Syndrome Awareness Month

WHEREAS Rett syndrome is a rare genetic neurological disorder that occurs almost exclusively in girls and leads to severe impairments, affecting nearly every aspect of the individual's life. Rett syndrome occurs worldwide in 1 of every 10,000 female births and is even rarer in boys, but not impossible. Rett syndrome is usually recognized in children between 6-18 months of age as they begin to miss developmental milestones or lose abilities they had once gained;

AND WHEREAS throughout their lives these courageous individuals will need total care and constant support from their family; they will combat many medical challenges. They may have seizures, osteoporosis, scoliosis, breath holding, hyperventilation, nutritional problems and so much more. Apraxia, which is the inability to motor plan, is one of the most challenging aspects of Rett Syndrome along with loss of speech;

AND WHEREAS in 1999 it was discovered that Rett Syndrome is primarily caused by a sporadic mutation in the MECP2 gene on the X chromosome, and since this discovery there are many research projects taking place across Ontario and Canada;

AND WHEREAS as there is no Canadian Rett Syndrome Association, the Ontario Rett Syndrome Association (O.R.S.A.) has members from many provinces across Canada and through donations and fundraising efforts have been able to fund and support, Canadian research initiatives, Rett Syndrome clinics in Ontario and the Canadian Rett Syndrome Registry.

NOW THEREFORE, I, [REDACTED], Mayor of the [REDACTED], **DO HEREBY PROCLAIM October 2023** as **RETT SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH** in the [REDACTED]. I urge all citizens to make an effort this month to learn more Rett Syndrome, fight stigma, light Canada purple and wear a purple ribbon to show support.

Dated [REDACTED]