

December 11, 2017

Legislative Services
City of Pitt Meadows
12007 Harris Road
Pitt Meadows, BC
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To whom it may concern:

Re: Proclamation of Alzheimer's Awareness Month, January 1 – 31, 2018

I am writing on behalf of the Alzheimer Society of B.C. to request that the month of January 2018 be proclaimed as Alzheimer's Awareness Month in Pitt Meadows.

Alzheimer's disease is a progressive and degenerative neurological disease. It is not a normal part of aging. An estimated 70,000 people in British Columbia currently live with dementia. The risk of dementia doubles every five years after the age of 65, but the disease can affect people as young as 40. Dementia affects individuals, families and communities across the province. Negative attitudes and misconceptions about dementia discourage people from getting a diagnosis, seeking treatment and support, or disclosing their illness to others.

The Alzheimer Society of B.C.'s ultimate vision is for a world without Alzheimer's disease or other dementias – but before there is a cure, there's care. Until our ultimate vision is achieved, our more immediate vision is for a world where people living with dementia, their caregivers and their families are welcomed, included and supported – a truly dementia-friendly society.

In partnership with the B.C. Ministry of Health, the Society is committed to connecting people with dementia and their families to support and education through First Link® dementia support at any stage of the dementia journey. The Society also provides foundational education about dementia to health-care providers and works with professionals, local governments and the general public to reduce stigma and build more inclusive communities through its Dementia-Friendly Communities initiative. However, to meet our vision of a more dementia-friendly society we need the support of all British Columbians – the neighbours, friends and care partners of people living with dementia.

I thank you in advance for helping us to spread awareness and understanding of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and helping us create a more dementia-friendly B.C. A draft proclamation is attached for your information.

Sincerely,

Maria Howard, MBA
Chief Executive Officer