

March 16, 2018

Mayor John Becker
City of Pitt Meadows
12007 Harris Road
Pitt Meadows, BC V3Y2B5

Dear Mayor Becker:

April is internationally recognized as Parkinson's Awareness Month and I am hoping that the City of Pitt Meadows will join with other communities across Canada and issue a proclamation declaring April 2018, Parkinson's Awareness Month.

Your proclamation would assist us with one of our major goals—to increase public awareness of this devastating neurological disorder.

Parkinson's disease (PD) is the second most common degenerative neurological disorder after Alzheimer's, but it receives significantly less attention. It is cruel and unforgiving, causing tremors, rigidity, instability, speech difficulty, and in some cases, depression, anxiety and dementia. Contrary to popular belief, Parkinson's is not exclusively diagnosed in the senior population. It can affect individuals of all ages and genders, including those in their early 20s, with young children and at the height of their careers. The debilitating effects of Parkinson's are felt not only by the person with the disease, but their entire family and the broader community. There is currently no known cure.

It is estimated that 13,000 people in British Columbia, 100,000 in Canada and one million in the US live with PD. These numbers are expected to increase 65% by 2031 due to the aging population.

I have taken the liberty of enclosing an outline for the proclamation and I thank you in advance for considering this request.

Sincerely,



Edith Elliott
Facilitator
Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Support Group

Parkinson Society British Columbia was established in 1969 to address the personal and social consequences of Parkinson's disease through advocacy, education, community outreach, scientific research and public awareness.

You are not alone. We are here to help.

Charitable Registration No. 11880 1240 RR0001