

To Mayor and Council,

I am a volunteer with FRAXA Research Foundation and am reaching out to you on behalf of families, like my own, who love someone with Fragile X syndrome. We are working with Fragile X organizations around the globe on a worldwide project to illuminate buildings, landmarks, and bridges in the color teal for World Fragile X Day on July 22.

We are reaching out to invite you to participate in this important day by lighting up the Fitzsimmons Covered Bridge in the colour teal in support of Fragile X Awareness!

Fragile X syndrome is the most known cause of inherited intellectual disability and the leading known single-gene cause of autism. Fragile X occurs when a single gene shuts down -- a gene vital to normal brain function. Raising awareness for Fragile X is crucial as it helps to accelerate progress toward effective supports, treatments, and ultimately a cure.

We have lived in British Columbia for all our lives. When my son was diagnosed with Fragile X Syndrome last fall, it quickly became apparent that not many people, including health care professionals, are aware or familiar with Fragile X Syndrome. There is a Fragile X Foundation of Canada, however, I'm hoping to bring this awareness more local. This is one way we can bring more awareness to Fragile X and contribute to a more inclusive community!

After it is confirmed, each illumination is added to the World Fragile X Day map on our website: worldfragilexday.com so we can recognize those who are playing this important role in helping us to raise awareness. 300 locations around the world lit up in 2021 to recognize Fragile X syndrome for our first World Fragile X Day! This energy took raising awareness of this syndrome that impacts so many to a new level. We are working hard to make an even bigger impact this year!

We would love to have the Fitzsimmons Covered Bridge join us for this great opportunity to shine a bright light on Fragile X syndrome on behalf of families everywhere. Please feel free to reach out to me for more information or to confirm details of the event.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration!

June Clark

