

Dear Mayor and Council,

My name is Rachael, and I work with Parkinson Society British Columbia (PSBC). We are a non-profit organization committed to raising awareness about Parkinson's disease and supporting individuals and families affected by this neurodegenerative disorder.

I am writing to request a proclamation recognizing Parkinson's Awareness Month, which takes place in April. This proclamation serves as a valuable tool to inform the public and our community about the challenges faced by those living with Parkinson's disease (PD).

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 twenties, those with young children, or 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. An estimated 17,500 people in British Columbia live with PD, with the worldwide incidence of Parkinson's disease expected to double by 2040. There is currently no known cure.

To streamline the proclamation process, I have attached a draft that can be used as a guide to create the official proclamation document.

We sincerely thank you for your consideration of the request and the potential recognition it will bring to Parkinson's Awareness Month. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Warm regards,



**Rachael Quak**

*Marketing & Communications Assistant*

Parkinson Society British Columbia

600 - 890 West Pender Street | Vancouver, BC V6C 1J9

604-662-3240 ext. 275 | 1-800-668-3330 ext. 275 | [www.parkinson.bc.ca](http://www.parkinson.bc.ca)



***PROCLAMATION DRAFT***

**PARKINSON'S AWARENESS MONTH**

- WHEREAS                      Parkinson's disease, for which there is no known cause or cure, is a progressive, degenerative neurological disorder which causes tremor or trembling of the arms and legs, muscular rigidity, slowness of movement and difficulty with speaking and swallowing; and
- WHEREAS                      Parkinson's affects approximately 17,500 adults in the Province of British Columbia; and
- WHEREAS                      Parkinson Society British Columbia is providing information, consultation, support services and educational seminars for people with Parkinson's and their families; and is promoting a better understanding of this disorder; and
- WHEREAS                      It is desirable to increase the level of understanding of Parkinson's and the needs of persons living with Parkinson's.