

Sept 26, 2024



Mayor and Council
Resort Municipality of Whistler
4325 Blackcomb Way
Whistler, BC V8E 0X5

Dear Mayor and Council:

My name is Marg Pallot and am writing this on behalf of the Rotary Club of Whistler and the Rotary Club of Whistler Millennium to invite Mayor Jack Crompton and Council to proclaim Oct 24th as World Polio day.

World Polio Day, October 24th, was established by Rotary International over a decade ago to commemorate the birth of Jonas Salk, who led the first team to develop a vaccine against poliomyelitis. Today Rotary continues the effort eradicate this terrible disease.

Polio Today

The eradication of polio is one of our longest standing and most significant efforts. Along with our partners, we have helped immunize more than 3 billion children against polio in 122 countries. We have reduced polio cases by 99.9 percent worldwide and we won't stop until we end the disease for good. Today, five countries continue to report cases of wild poliovirus: Afghanistan, Alger, Nigeria, Pakistan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. There are also a few outbreak cases in previously vaccinated areas due to the spread of wild virus and vaccine derived poliovirus.

Challenges

Several countries continue to face unique challenges, including political insecurity, highly mobile populations, difficult terrain, and, in some instances, vaccine refusal and misinformation. With sufficient resources, the commitment of national governments, and innovations that improve access to remote areas, we are optimistic that we can eliminate polio.

On Oct 24th the Rotary Club of Whistler and the Rotary Club of Whistler Millennium will observe World Polio Day. We invite citizens of Whistler to help eradicate this horrible disease. More information about the fight to end polio may be found at endpolio.org or to make a donation go to endpolio.org/donate (tax receipts available)

On behalf of both Whistler Rotary clubs, we ask that Mayor and Council recognize this important day which is observed annually by proclaiming Oct 24th World Polio Day. A copy of the proposed proclamation is attached. Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marg Pallot".

Marg Pallot
Rotary Club of Whistler
Unit 27, 2240 Gondola Way, Whistler V8E 0N1
mpallot@telus.net
(604)932-0866

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Rotary is a global network of neighbours, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who unite and take action to create lasting change in communities across the globe, and

WHEREAS, the Rotary motto, Service Above Self, inspires members to provide humanitarian service, follow high ethical standards, and promote goodwill and peace in the world, and

WHEREAS, Rotary in 1985 launched PolioPlus and in 1988 helped establish the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, which today includes the World Health Organization, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, to immunize the children of the world against polio, and

WHEREAS, polio cases have dropped by 99.9 and the world stands on the threshold of eradicating the disease; and

WHEREAS, to date, Rotary has contributed more than US\$2.6 billion and countless volunteer hours to protecting nearly 3 billion children in 122 countries, and

WHEREAS, Rotary is working to raise an additional \$50 million per year, which would be leveraged for maximum impact by 2-to-1 match from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; and

WHEREAS, these efforts are providing much-needed operational support, medical staff, laboratory equipment, and educational materials for health workers and parents, and

WHEREAS, there are over 1.4 million Rotary members in 46,000 clubs throughout the world, including 2 Rotary Clubs with over 50 members in Whistler. All sponsor service projects to address such critical issues as poverty, disease, hunger, illiteracy, and the environment in their local communities and abroad.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, **Jack Crompton**, Mayor of the Resort Municipality of Whistler and Council do hereby proclaim October 24th, 2023 as

WORLD POLIO DAY

in the Resort Municipality of Whistler and encourage all citizens to join us and Rotary International in the campaign for a polio-free world.

