

Mark, Robyn, Owen, Elliott and Amelie Edmondson
1152 Whitewater Drive
Whistler, BC
V8E 0L4

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

September 14th, 2020

Attn: Mayor Jack Crompton and Council

RE: Proclamation of October 15th as "Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day"

We are parents striving to raise awareness and recognition of a tragedy sadly close to our hearts.

On October 30th, 2014 our son Owen Benjamin Edmondson was born, a day after his due date, after a wonderful and healthy pregnancy. He suffered a stressful labour which caused his heart rate to dip, and him to take a gasp of meconium which filled his lungs. He was delivered through an emergency caesarean but had already suffered severe oxygen deprivation which caused irreversible brain damage. The hospital were able to stabilize him so we could spend an incredibly powerful 5 days parenting him in the NICU, learning his character and personality traits. Time spent together as a family. Unfortunately, the damage to our little boy's brain was too much and we had to make the heart wrenching decision to remove him from life support. We were able to give Owen a beautiful death out in the fresh Vancouver air listening to the wind in the trees and feeling the raindrops land on his head. Owen's life was one full of love. His spirit lives on through every adventure and smile shared. His presence is strongly felt in our family.

Since this has happened to our little family we have learned of more people in the community, some who have come forward to support us, that have had similar experiences. One of the most alarming parts of our experience was our naivety due to the lack of awareness and the silence that surrounds these tragic events. We know that we're not alone. Promoting awareness of pregnancy and infant loss will increase the likelihood that families experiencing loss will receive understanding and support as they face the challenges of their distinctive bereavement.

We are writing to request your support to declare October 15th as “Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day” again this year in Whistler. We request that in addition to this declaration, the lights across the Fitzsimmons Creek are changed to the campaign pink/blue colours for the evening with a sign explaining the event and the municipality's support on the issue (the sign from previous years could be reused this year).

With COVID-19, we recognize that gatherings are not encouraged, so this will just be a lighting in honour and recognition of these children. There will be no event.

Thousands of families across Canada are devastated each year by the death of their baby through miscarriage, stillbirth or neonatal loss. It is important to our family that this day be recognized in order to help break the stigma and silence, and to once again bring our community together in support of this and each other.

There is a Canadian action site which contains information about what this day hopes to achieve, <http://www.october15.ca/>. Among other municipalities in BC and other provinces, the city of Vancouver acknowledges this day, changing the colours of the lighting on BC Place in support.

If there's involvement required from our part we would be honoured to do what is needed. We are now responsible for parenting the spirit and memory of our special son in ways we had never imagined. We want to ensure Owen Benjamin Edmondson, and the children of other local residents, are never forgotten.

Thank you for your support,
Mark, Robyn, Owen, Elliott, and Amelie Edmondson







Landmark Lighting Request Form

Please complete the form and scan/email to corporate@whistler.ca along with your cover letter addressed "To Mayor and Council" with information regarding your campaign or cause.

We will contact you to confirm the status of your request.

Contact Name	Robyn Edmondson
Organization	
Business Address	1152 Whitewater Drive
City/Province/Postal Code	Whistler BC V8E 0L4
Business Phone Number	
Business Email	
Website Address	
Brief description of the event associated with your request - 75 words or less <i>(Information here will be used for communications and the sign on the bridge. RMOW will edit copy if necessary.)</i>	We are writing to request your support to declare October 15th as "Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day" again this year in Whistler. We request that in addition to this declaration, the lights across the Fitzsimmons Creek are changed to the campaign pink/blue colours for the evening with a sign explaining the event and the municipality's support on the issue (the sign from previous years could be reused this year).
Optional: Social Media Campaign Title (include hashtags)	
Landmark Choice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fitzsimmons Covered Bridge
Date of Event	October 15th, 2020
Colour Request	Pink and Blue (alternating is fine!)

Signature: _____

Date: Robyn Edmondson/ Sept 29th, 2020 _____

This application does not guarantee that your event lighting request will be approved or your date is available.



Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day

October 15, 2020

- WHEREAS** many parents and families have suffered a miscarriage, a stillbirth or the death of an infant during delivery or shortly after birth;
- AND
WHEREAS** the Edmondson family and community members continue to raise awareness of pregnancy and infant loss;
- AND
WHEREAS** a day of remembrance honours the lives of children taken far too soon and supports grieving parents, grandparents, siblings and other family members whose lives are forever altered by the heartbreak of losing a child;
- NOW
THEREFORE** I, Jack Crompton, Mayor of the Resort Municipality of Whistler do hereby proclaim October 15, 2020 as “Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day” in Whistler, British Columbia.

Jack Crompton, Mayor
Resort Municipality of Whistler