

Oct 2, 2020

Mayor and Council
Resort Municipality of Whistler
4325 Blackcomb Way
Whistler, BC V0N 1B4



Dear Mayor and Council:

My name is Murray Wood and, again this year, I'm 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. Over the last year much has happened:

Polio eradication resources support COVID-19 response

When the global COVID-19 pandemic was declared, polio eradication programs and resources were made available at the global and country level to enable a strong response to COVID-19. Now that polio eradication programs are restarting, we must continue the effort to end all forms of polio for good.

Africa Region declared free of the wild polio virus

On 25 August 2020, after four years without a single case of wild polio, the Africa region has been certified free of the wild poliovirus by the WHO. A major milestone!

This leaves the Eastern Mediterranean Region which includes Pakistan & Afghanistan, the last countries where there are cases of the wild polio virus.

Pedal for Polio campaign

In September 2020, the four Rotary clubs in the Sea to Sky corridor launched the Pedal for Polio campaign encouraging individuals to raise funds for polio eradication. Over \$17,000 was raised for PolioPlus. With matching funds provided by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the effort raised sufficient funds to purchase over 66,000 doses of the oral polio vaccine.

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.



Murray Wood
Rotary District 5040 Area Governor - Sea to Sky
1209 Mount Fee Road, Whistler BC V8E 0A4



Proclamation

WHEREAS, in 1985 Rotary International launched PolioPlus and spearheaded the Global Polio Eradication Initiative with the World Health Organization, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, 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 percent from 350,000 in 122 countries in 1988 to less than 200 in 2 countries in 2019 and the world stands on the threshold of eradicating the disease forever; and

WHEREAS, to date, Rotary has contributed US\$2.1 billion to protect more than 2.5 billion children; and is working to raise an additional \$50 million per year to be matched with \$100 million annually by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; and

WHEREAS, World Polio Day is celebrated around the globe on October 24th. It was established by Rotary International over a decade ago to commemorate the birth of Jonas Salk, who in 1955 led the first team to develop a vaccine against poliomyelitis; and

WHEREAS, there are 52 Rotary Clubs with over 1,450 members in Rotary District 5040 (BC), and 2 Rotary Clubs with over 40 members in Whistler, all committed to the eradication of polio and sponsoring service projects to address such critical issues as poverty, health, hunger, illiteracy, and the environment in their local communities, and abroad.

WHEREAS, through the Pedal for Polio Campaign the four Sea-to-Sky Rotary clubs: Rotary Club of Whistler, Rotary Club of Whistler Millennium, Rotary Club of Pemberton and the Rotary Club of Squamish have recently concluded an effort that raised over \$17,000 towards the eradication of this horrible disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, **Jack Crompton**, Mayor of the Resort Municipality of Whistler and Council do hereby proclaim October 24th, 2020 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.

