



March 17, 2021

Resort Municipality of Whistler

Dear Mayor and Council,

As May marks both Melanoma and Skin Cancer Awareness Month and the beginning of summer, it is imperative that communities across Canada be reminded of the importance of sun safety at this time of the year. In order to keep your citizens aware, informed, and vigilant about the potential risks of over-exposure to UV radiation, we ask that you, as a mayoral body, **publicly proclaim May as Melanoma and Skin Cancer Awareness Month in your municipality.**

Over-exposure to UV radiation is the leading cause of melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers. Though skin cancers should be largely preventable, their diagnosis rates are increasing. Skin cancer is the most common of all cancers. **1 in 6 Canadians born in the 1990s will get skin cancer in their lifetimes.** There are more new cases of skin cancer each year than the number of breast, prostate, lung and colon cancers COMBINED. While most forms of non-melanoma skin cancer can be surgically removed, melanoma is an aggressive form of cancer. The five-year relative survival rate of melanoma that has metastasized is 18%.

Despite these figures, many people seek sun without taking the advisable precautionary measures, or believe that only severe burns contribute to one's risk of skin cancer. In fact, **any darkening of skin colour, including a tan, is indicative of UV damage.**

Mayor of New Westminster, B.C., Jonathan Coté, has committed to proclaim May 2021 as Melanoma and Skin Cancer Awareness Month, and challenges other municipalities to follow his example by promoting sun safety, skin cancer awareness, and early detection information among their populations.

"People are spending more time outside now than ever and it's crucial that more be done to educate people on the importance of sun safety. This is why as Mayor of New Westminster, I'm happy to support this important initiative and challenge all municipalities to do the same." - Mayor Jonathan Coté

If you choose to make the proclamation, Save Your Skin Foundation will provide you with an online resource package providing information on these matters and a certificate recognizing your municipality's efforts.

Save Your Skin Foundation is a Canadian non-profit registered charity founded by North Vancouver resident and melanoma survivor Kathleen Barnard. It is dedicated to the fight against non-melanoma skin cancers, melanoma and ocular melanoma through nationwide education, advocacy, and awareness initiatives like this one.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Barnard, Founder and President
Save Your Skin Foundation