



City of Stratford Proclamation Request

Hello,

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 our communities aware, informed, and vigilant about the potential risks of over-exposure to the sun (UV radiation), we ask that you publicly **proclaim May 2024 as Melanoma and Skin Cancer Awareness Month.**

Over-exposure to UV radiation is one of the major causes 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.

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.

There are more new cases of skin cancer each year than the number of breast, prostate, lung and colon cancers combined.

Last year, more than 45 municipalities proclaimed May as Melanoma and Skin Cancer Awareness Month. If you choose to participate in the initiative this year, Save Your Skin Foundation will provide you with resources on these matters which you can share with your residents.

We would also be most happy to discuss providing **free sunscreen dispensers** for your municipalities or specific events (including our SunCare initiative which extends free sunscreen especially to vulnerable communities). We can also join you in your communities by hosting events in your local libraries or other community centres using resources from our **Shining a Light on Sun Safety** initiative which includes childrens books and other activities.

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

Sincerely,

Kathleen Barnard, Founder and President
Save Your Skin Foundation



“MELANOMA AND SKIN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH”

WHEREAS It is imperative that communities across Canada be reminded of the importance of sun safety;

AND WHEREAS Over-exposure to UV radiation is one of the major causes of melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers;

AND WHEREAS Skin cancer is the most common of all cancers. 1 in 6 Canadians born in the 1990s will get skin cancer in their lifetimes;

AND WHEREAS Many people seek sun without taking the advisable precautionary measures and are unaware that any darkening of skin colour, including a tan, is indicative of UV damage;

AND WHEREAS Skin self-examinations should be performed on a monthly basis because skin cancers are highly treatable when detected early;

AND WHEREAS Save Your Skin Foundation is dedicated to the fight against non-melanoma skin cancers, melanoma and ocular melanoma through nationwide education, advocacy, and awareness initiatives:

NOW, THEREFORE the month of May 2024 will hereby be proclaimed as MELANOMA AND SKIN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH