

Dear Mayor Martin Ritsma:

I am writing to request that October 15 be proclaimed as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day in the city of Stratford.

Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day is a global campaign of remembrance for pregnancy loss and infant death; which includes but is not limited to, miscarriage, stillbirth, medical termination, SIDS and the death of a newborn. In 1988, Ronald Regan, the sitting president of the United States of America, proclaimed October as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness month. By 2002, the idea to proclaim a specific remembrance day was started by Robyn Bear, Lisa Brown and Tammy Novak. Together, they petitioned the government to nationally observe October 15 as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day across all 50 states.

Here in Ontario, Bill 141, an act for research to be done and programs to be developed for pregnancy loss and infant death support was passed in 2015. This legislation included the proclamation of October 15th to be recognized throughout the province.

In recognition of the importance of support needed when a family experiences this traumatic loss, I would be particularly honoured to have you present this proclamation at (describe the event at which you would like the proclamation read.) We look forward to working with your office on this important endeavor and in representing our City in Stratford Ontario.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jillian Chambers

Sample Proclamation

DATE

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS- Pregnancy and Infant loss is a tragedy that affects 1 in 4 pregnancies, with devastating heartbreak for families and;

WHEREAS- The censorship that surrounds these losses impedes healing for those affected and;

WHEREAS- Awareness and sharing about these losses especially within one's own community helps healing to take place and;

WHEREAS- A day of remembrance honours the lives of the children and supports grieving parents, families and friends whose lives are forever altered by the heartbreak of losing a child and;

WHEREAS- The 15th day of October is recognized in parts of Canada and in many others jurisdictions around the world, as a day of remembrance and awareness of pregnancy and infant loss.

NOW THEREFORE- I Mayor Name, by virtue the power vested in me, as Mayor of City Name, do hereby declare October 15th as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day.

Representatives (Names of who will speak at council)

Explanation of Cause On average the INSERT CITY NAME has been welcoming INSERT LOCAL STATISTICS, IF KNOWN new babies every year. Our community is a great place to raise a family, with the pure beauty of the surrounding landscape, and the kind and loving people that choose to live here. However, sometimes the joy of welcoming a new baby into the world turns into a great tragedy; we experience between INSERT LOCAL STATISTICS, IF

KNOWN infant deaths (which includes but is not limited to miscarriage, stillbirth, SIDS, or the death of a newborn) per year as a community. The pain of losing a child is unimaginable.

In hopes of helping fellow families who have gone through such tragedy we are hosting a Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness and Remembrance Event.

It will take place LOCATION, DATE & TIME on a day that is globally recognized as a day to remember those babies who have gone too soon. It is our/my hope that this event can bring together individuals, families and organizations to help ease some of the pain but to also offer a time to remember our babies without feeling the stigma that often comes with talking about our losses.

Sample Illumination Letter

Dear _____,

October 15th is Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day in Ontario. Every year over 37,000 families in Ontario experience this type of loss and too often, families suffer in silence.

Here in Ontario, Bill 141, an act for research to be done and programs to be developed for pregnancy loss and infant death support was passed in 2015. This legislation included the proclamation of October 15th to be recognized throughout the province.

On this day, families affected by the loss of a pregnancy or the death of an infant will be participating in the International Wave of Light with their families and friends at 7PM local time. Many other landmark buildings, bridges and fountains will be illuminated in purple to honour the memory of these babies and we hope that you will participate with us.

Having the (insert building name here) included in this important day of recognition will create great visual awareness for our work, and send the message to these families that they are not alone.

Thank you for your consideration and for supporting this initiative. Please contact me at (insert contact information) to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]