



THE CORPORATION OF THE
CITY OF ST. CATHARINES

BRIAN McMULLAN
MAYOR

10,3813
Box 3012, 50 Church Street,
St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada L2R 7C2
Tel: 905-688-5600 www.stcatharines.ca

February 11, 2013.

Mr. John Mulligan
Lymphedema Therapy, Education & Consulting
12-111 Fourth Avenue, #347
St. Catharines, ON L2S 3P5

Dear Mr. Mulligan:

Thank you for your request received February 11, 2013. I regret to inform you that The City of St. Catharines no longer issues proclamation notices for any organization. This policy has been in effect since October of 1995.

This policy is not a reflection of Council's appreciation of your efforts to promote the importance of Lymphedema Awareness Day and the benefits to the community. I will forward your correspondence to the City Clerk's Office, so that it may be included on the Correspondence List for Council information. I will also mention Lymphedema Awareness Day in my address to Council on Monday, March 4th. Please contact my office at 905-688-5600 ext.1540 if there is any other way that I can be of assistance.

I wish you all the best for Lymphedema Awareness Day!

Best regards,

Brian McMullan
Mayor

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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
ST. CATHARINES, ONTARIO



John Mulligan, RMT/CLT-LANA
Lymphedema Therapy, Education & Consulting
12-111 Fourth Ave. #347, St. Catharines, ON L2S 3P5

RECEIVED
MAYOR'S OFFICE

February 7, 2013

Leanne - Letter
Copy - Julie - MR
Council

Mayor McMullan,

As a member of the Education Working Group of the Canadian Lymphedema Framework, as well as a private practice clinician specializing in lymphedema care, I am writing to ask that St. Catharines City Council proclaim March 6th **Lymphedema Awareness Day**. This proclamation will raise awareness of lymphedema, a chronic, incurable condition which is under-diagnosed and under-treated. Lymphedema patients consistently find a lack of dedicated resources to help them find information and treatment for their condition.

Lymphedema is a failure of the lymphatic system that presents as chronic swelling. This swelling can be so pronounced as to be disfiguring and potentially disabling. Lymphedema can lead to severe infections requiring expensive hospitalisation and resulting in loss of productivity as well as misery for patients who run the risk of developing sepsis due to severe infection.

With proper diagnosis, treatment and support lymphedema can be managed as a chronic condition; left untreated it can be devastating. Patients who have been treated for breast cancer are at a lifetime risk of developing Breast Cancer Related Lymphedema (BCRL). According to the Lymphedema Association of Ontario, **246,000 Ontario cancer survivors are at a lifetime risk of developing lymphedema**. Any patient who has had lymph nodes removed or radiation therapy as part of their cancer treatment is at risk of developing secondary lymphedema. Many patients are born with genetic or primary lymphedema as well.

The goal of the Canadian Lymphedema Framework and its partner, non-profit organizations such as the Lymphedema Association of Ontario is that comprehensive effective treatment for lymphedema and related disorders will be accessible to all persons across Canada. Our organizations need your help in getting our message out into the community, so we are appealing to you to join many others throughout Canada in proclaiming March 6th **Lymphedema Awareness Day** in our community.

Lymphedema cannot be cured, it can only be managed. Treatment consists of bandaging, special manual techniques, compression garments and specific exercises. These treatment techniques lead to patients being able to manage their own condition on a daily basis. This enables them to lead a more active and hopeful life. Unfortunately, treatment and garments are expensive and often not available to lymphedema patients because they are not covered by private or provincial health plans.

Many people in our community suffer with lymphedema. Proclaiming March 6th **Lymphedema Awareness Day** in St. Catharines will help to foster understanding of the difficulties lymphedema sufferers endure, encourage community support, and demonstrate a sincere effort to bring hope to those struggling with lymphedema.

Sincerely,