

From: [Chris Magnus](#)
To: [Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: May 2026 – Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Month & Day (Municipal Proclamation Request)
Date: Thursday, January 29, 2026 4:08:35 PM
Attachments: [Proclamation MCS - May and May 12 2026.docx](#)
[References and Evidence Base.docx.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)

Proclamation Request.

CHRIS MAGNUS

Executive Assistant to Mayor and CAO

City of White Rock

15322 Buena Vista Avenue, White Rock, BC V4B 1A6

T: 604-541-2124 Cell: 604-787-4709

www.whiterockcity.ca



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From: Ajeeta Shanmugarajaih <ajeeta@ehac-asec.ca>
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 1:37 PM
To: Megan Knight <mknight@whiterockcity.ca>
Subject: May 2026 – Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Month & Day (Municipal Proclamation Request)

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Dear Mayor Knight,

We are writing on behalf of the Environmental Health Association of Canada (EHAC-ASEC) and the Environmental Health Association of Québec (ASEQ-EHAQ) to invite the City of White Rock to take part in a coordinated national effort to advance accessibility and inclusion for people living with **multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS)**.

May is internationally recognized as Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Month, with May 12 recognized globally as Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Day. This observance is specific to MCS and reflects its established status as a recognized disability that requires accommodation and protection from discrimination.

Multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS) is **already recognized as a disability and health condition in Canada**. The focus today is not recognition, but **municipal inclusion and**

implementation — ensuring that public environments, services, and programs are accessible to residents whose health and participation depend on reduced chemical exposures.

Municipal leadership in this area aligns with well-established legal, medical, and human-rights frameworks:

- The **Canadian Human Rights Commission** recognizes multiple chemical sensitivity as a disability and affirms that **scent-free and low-toxicity environments are required accommodation measures**.
- The **American Medical Association** recognizes fragrance sensitivity including MCS as a condition that may limit major life activities and supports fragrance-free policies, ingredient transparency, and clinical awareness.
- Under the **United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, Canada has been directed to eliminate discrimination against persons with multiple chemical sensitivity and ensure equality and inclusion across all levels of government, including municipalities.
- **Statistics Canada** has collected national data on MCS since 2000, with current analyses indicating that **over 1.13 million Canadians (1 in 34)** have been diagnosed with MCS, confirming its prevalence and public-health significance.
- **The Accessible Canada Act (2019)** establishes a **proactive duty to identify, remove, and prevent barriers to accessibility for all persons with disabilities**. Including multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS) within municipal accessibility and inclusion initiatives aligns local action with this federal framework and supports inclusive environments for people with diverse disability-related access needs.

Exposure can worsen the condition

MCS is understood to involve **sensitization**, meaning that continued exposure to fragranced and chemical products can **intensify symptoms and increase disability**, reinforcing the importance of preventive accommodation measures in public settings.

In this context, we respectfully invite the City of White Rock to **issue a municipal proclamation** that aligns with existing recognition and affirms:

- **May as Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Month**
- **May 12 as Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Day**
- The municipality's commitment to **accessibility and inclusion**, including the importance of **fragrance-free and low-emission environments** as essential accommodation measures

For your convenience, we have enclosed **draft proclamation language** that reflects established evidence and human-rights obligations. We would be pleased to support any review, adaptation, or translation required.

Municipal action sends a clear signal that accessibility includes people whose disabilities are

triggered by chemical exposures—and that public spaces, services, and civic life must be inclusive of all residents.

Thank you for your leadership and for considering this request. We would welcome the opportunity to support the City of White Rock in this important step toward accessibility and inclusion.

Respectfully,

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Ajeeta Shanmugarajah

Coordinatrice de la communauté et de la sensibilisation / Community and Outreach
Coordinator

Environmental Health Association of Canada –

Association pour la santé environnementale du Canada - (EHAC-ASEC)

Tel : 514.332.4320 | office@ehac-asec.ca

C.P. 364/ PO Box 364, Saint-Sauveur, Québec J0R 1R1

www.ehac-asec.ca | EcoasisQuebec.ca

Des solutions saines www.LaVieEcolo.ca | Healthy solutions www.EcoLivingGuide.ca

Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Month

May 2026

WHEREAS multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS) is a recognized disability in Canada that can substantially limit major life activities, including breathing, mobility, access to housing, employment, healthcare, education, and public services;

WHEREAS the Canadian Human Rights Commission recognizes environmental sensitivities, including multiple chemical sensitivity, as a disability and affirms that **scent-free environments and the use of lowest-VOC-emission, least-toxic products constitute required accommodations** to ensure equality and non-discrimination;

WHEREAS the American Medical Association has adopted policy recognizing fragrance sensitivity including MCS as a condition that may limit major life activity, and has endorsed **fragrance-free policies, ingredient transparency, research, and clinical awareness as necessary measures to reduce harm and improve access in healthcare and public settings;**

WHEREAS people living with multiple chemical sensitivity may experience serious and disabling health effects when exposed to fragranced products, cleaning agents, pesticides, building materials, and other chemical emissions commonly present in public and private environments;

WHEREAS Canada is a State Party to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and has been directed by the UN Committee to **eliminate discrimination against persons with multiple chemical sensitivity and ensure full equality and inclusion** across all levels of government;

WHEREAS the Accessible Canada Act (2019) establishes a proactive duty to identify, remove, and prevent barriers to accessibility for all persons with disabilities, including through inclusive public environments and services at all levels of government;

WHEREAS Statistics Canada data indicate that more than 1.13 million Canadians have been diagnosed with multiple chemical sensitivity, confirming its prevalence and public-health significance;

WHEREAS May is recognized internationally as **Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Month**, and May 12 as **Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Day**, dedicated to advancing understanding of MCS as a disability and the need for accessible, fragrance-free, and lowest VOC-emission environments;

THEREFORE, I, [Mayor's Name], Mayor of the City of [City], do hereby proclaim **May 2026 as Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Month** and **May 12, 2026 as Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Day**, and encourage actions that uphold accessibility, dignity, and human rights for people living with MCS.



Environmental Health Association of Canada
Association pour la Santé Environnementale du Canada



Association pour la santé environnementale du Québec
Environmental Health Association of Québec

Selected References and Evidence Base

Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS)

American Medical Association. (2025). *Policy H-135.902: Fragrance sensitivity*.

Recognizes fragrance sensitivity as a condition that may limit major life activities and supports fragrance-free policies, ingredient transparency, research, and clinical awareness.

<https://policysearch.ama-assn.org/policyfinder/detail/%22Fragrance%20Regulation%20H-135.902%22?uri=%2FAMADoc%2FHOD.xml-H-135.902.xml>

Canadian Human Rights Commission. (n.d.). *Policy on environmental sensitivities*. Government of Canada.

Recognizes environmental sensitivities, including multiple chemical sensitivity, as a disability and identifies scent-free and low-toxicity environments as required accommodations.

<https://www.chrc-ccdp.gc.ca/resources/publications/environmental-sensitivities-and-scent-free-policies>

Statistics Canada. (2000–present). *Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS): Multiple chemical sensitivity*. Government of Canada.

Population-level data indicate that **over 1.13 million Canadians have been diagnosed with multiple chemical sensitivity**.

Summary available at: <https://aseq-ehaq.ca/en/mcs-statistics/>

United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. (2025). Concluding observations on the combined second and third periodic reports of Canada.

https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRPD%2FCAN%2FCO%2F2-3&Lang=en

Environmental Health Association of Canada-Association pour la santé environnementale du Canada
Environmental Health Association of Québec-Association pour la santé environnementale du Québec

PO BOX 364, Saint-Sauveur, Québec J0R 1R1

ehac-asec.ca □ aseq-ehac.ca

514 332 4320



Molot, J., Sears, M., & Anisman, H. (2023, February 28). Multiple chemical sensitivity: It's time to catch up to the science. SSRN. <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4373616>

Note: click [here](#) to view the full report from the AMA's Council on Science and Public Health. The AMA's stance on fragrance is listed under the Resolution 501-A-24 and can be found in the pages 749–783.

A joint initiative of the Environmental Health Association of Canada (EHAC-ASEC) and the Environmental Health Association of Québec (ASEQ-EHAQ).