

**From:** [Clerk's Office](#)  
**To:** [Debbie Johnstone](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Proclamation for International Celiac Awareness month May 2023  
**Date:** March 23, 2023 9:37:27 AM

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**From:** Pushpa Kapadia  
**Sent:** March 22, 2023 4:39 PM  
**To:** [whiterockcouncil@whiterockcity.ca](mailto:whiterockcouncil@whiterockcity.ca); Megan Knight <[mknight@whiterockcity.ca](mailto:mknight@whiterockcity.ca)>  
**Subject:** Proclamation for International Celiac Awareness month May 2023

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Dear Mayor Megan Knight and the council members,

I hope this e-mail finds you, your family and your friends in the best of health.

We are contacting you today to request your support in bringing awareness of Celiac Disease to White Rock. May is International Celiac Awareness Month, and the Canadian Celiac Association of British Columbia requests your assistance in providing us with a proclamation to bring awareness to this disease. Thus far, we have received a Proclamation from the City of Vancouver and Richmond. We're pending receipt from the Province of British Columbia and Surrey, which has supported us for the last few years with this declaration. As an example of how the City of Vancouver promotes awareness, the Vancouver City Hall will also be lit in green on May 16, along with BC Place Stadium and Science World. We would also love to see our City of WhiteRock Pier lit up in **green** on May 16.

I have attached a submission here.

A little bit on Celiac Disease (CD). It is a genetic, multi-system, autoimmune disorder where the body reacts to gluten and other prolamines in wheat (e.g. durum, kamut, spelt), rye and barley. Gluten consumption causes damage to the absorptive surface of the small intestine. It can result in malnutrition, anemia, nutritional deficiencies and an increased risk of other autoimmune diseases and some gut cancers. Every person affected may react differently, and while sometimes there may be no symptoms, internal damage is still being done.

About 80 percent of Canadians with celiac disease are estimated to remain undiagnosed – and could suffer from debilitating "mystery" symptoms. Research has shown that while one percent of the world's population suffers from celiac disease, the lack of awareness and testing severely delays diagnosis. This is why we are doing our best to bring awareness.

We greatly appreciate your contribution to the Canadian Celiac Association of British Columbia.

Thank you, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Pushpa Kapadia  
Support Group Facilitator  
Canadian Celiac Association British Columbia  
1-604-721-0098

[Supportgroups@bcceliac.ca](mailto:Supportgroups@bcceliac.ca)  
[www.bcceliac.ca](http://www.bcceliac.ca)

*Whereas The City of Vancouver believes in supporting those living with Celiac Disease*

*and Whereas Celiac Disease is often misunderstood as a gluten allergy, but it is actually an autoimmune disease, closely linked with Diabetes and thyroid disease;*

*and Whereas The Canadian Celiac Association wants to support this that have Celiac Disease find the resources that they need;*

*and Whereas May is Celiac Month to raise awareness that Celiac disease is not a rare disease. Around 1% of the population have Celiac Disease and 80% of those are undiagnosed;*

*and Whereas There are many faces of those living with Celiac Disease who are looking to be recognized in the medical community and living in safe social settings*

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/food-nutrition/food-safety/food-allergies-intolerances/celiac-disease.html>

This disease affects nearly 1% of the population.

The population of Canada: The current population of Canada is **37,677,480** as of Tuesday, April 21, 2020, based on Worldometer elaboration of the latest United Nations data. Canada 2020 population is estimated at **37,742,154** people at mid year according to UN data. Canada population is equivalent to 0.48% of the total world population. <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/canada-population/>

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Canada's population was estimated at 37,589,262 on July 1, 2019, up 531,497 compared with July 1, 2018.

Based on this: 1% is 375K so 350K is conservative. This does not count any of the individuals who are gluten sensitive another 6% of the population.

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Canada  
**Province of British Columbia**  
**A Proclamation**

ELIZABETH THE SECOND, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom,  
 Canada and Her other Realms and Territories, Queen, Head of the  
 Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith

**To all to whom these presents shall come - Greeting**

WHEREAS celiac disease (CD) is an autoimmune disorder that causes severe gluten - protein found in wheat, rye and barley - triggered immune system response that through the lining of the small intestine, that impeding absorption of a protein required to stay healthy; and

WHEREAS an estimated 1% of people in Canada have CD, but the majority of these people are undiagnosed; and  
 WHEREAS research in Canada has shown that the average time from symptoms onset to diagnosis of CD is six months to three to five years; and

WHEREAS all British Columbians need to be aware that CD is not a new disease and that, if left untreated, CD can lead to malnutrition, eating anxiety, osteoporosis and gastrointestinal cancer; and

WHEREAS the vision of the Canadian Celiac Association is "Real. True. Care."

NOW KNOW YE THAT We do by these presents proclaim and declare that May 16, 2020, shall be known as  
**"International Celiac Disease Awareness Day"**

in the Province of British Columbia.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent and the Great Seal of the Province of British Columbia to be hereunto affixed.

WITNESSE The Honourable David Austin, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of British Columbia, in the City of Victoria, in the Province, this first day of May, two thousand twenty and to be every seventh year of the Reign.

BY COMMAND

  
 Lieutenant Governor

  
 Minister of Health

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