January 22, 2021

Dear Mayor

On behalf of the Lymphedema Association of Ontario (“LAO”) and the lymphedema community, we are requesting, as in previous years, that you proclaim March 6, 2021 as WORLD LYMPHEDEMA DAY in the City of Toronto. We previously referred to this Day as ‘Lymphedema Awareness Day.’ If it is available, we would also like to request that electronic signage be updated to show this.

Lymphedema is a chronic swelling of a body part caused by an accumulation of lymph fluid. It can result from cancer treatment, surgery, trauma or a generic deficiency that has affected one’s lymph nodes. Though not curable it can be managed with effective intervention including self-care. If left uncontrolled it can become a debilitating condition. We believe that more than approximately 380,000 Ontario residents currently have lymphedema.

The LAO is a patient-advocacy organization committed to providing resources and information to those affected by lymphedema. The LAO has continued to provide direct information via an info-line to many callers, attended or hosted many educational and awareness events, distributed informational resources and operated a therapist listing that attracts numerous views.

Awareness and knowledge for patients, caregivers and health-care providers, is key to combating this challenging condition. We believe that the impact of your proclamation would be significant. It would touch persons without lymphedema but at risk, and those with it but unaware. It would also recognize the significant burden imposed by this condition on those currently diagnosed as well as their caregivers.

We would advertise your proclamation through various media such as our newsletter, website and Facebook.

Other locations and Provinces have also historically proclaimed this Day and we are hoping you will grant our request by doing the same again this year.

Thank you for considering our request.

Best regards,

Dolores Steinwall

President, Lymphedema Association of Ontario

And

Volunteer and Advocate for Lymphedema Association of Ontario