

TO: Mayor Don Cousens  
Town of Markham Ontario Canada

April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006

FROM: Gisella Imbrogno = phone (905)884-6169 fax: (905)884-8348 on behalf of  
York Region Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Wellness Support Group,  
In association with FM-CFS Association of Canada, toll free # 1-877-437-4673  
[www.fm-cfs.ca](http://www.fm-cfs.ca) -Compassion in Action- 480 Somerset St. W., Ottawa K1R 5J8  
Charitable registration (# 89241-7742-RR0001).

Dear Mr. Mayor,

I am writing to you to ask only for your moral support for the cause which affects many of your citizens in very personal ways and our society in dramatic ways.

"Fibromyalgia" (FM) and "Chronic Fatigue Syndrome" (CFS) afflict about 8% of the population. Some of the major symptoms include chronic persistent musculo-skeletal pain, intense unexplainable fatigue, depressed immune system and many various forms of cognitive impairments including loss of reading skills and concentration abilities.

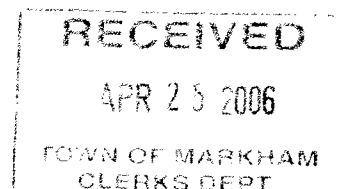
The reality of living with these issues and many more that are always changing in duration and intensity, is that the families, friends and employers are affected by it too. It is a root cause for many other social and economic problems. It is increasingly becoming more serious. Most of the now (1) million people with these conditions are spread across Canada. Reported cases show that 15% are males. Females however can be afflicted as early as teenagers and into child-bearing years threatening the physical and mental health of Canadian mothers and their children.

Unfortunately it could happen to anyone at any time for a multitude of reasons. The cause is yet "unknown" as is the "cure"! Even an effective lasting treatment eludes us. There is no real news yet to inform the public to help them avoid getting the illness. Recently with many able-bodied workers, there is a national coalition of organizations concerned with these illnesses working together to implement and improve public awareness, research, education and treatment options.

We encourage and welcome you and the Town Council to join hundreds of other mayors in Canada and worldwide in recognizing May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006 as "Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Awareness Day".

With visionary support from people like you and others leaders, we hope to fight this illness which affect 1 in 10 families and harms our community in many ways. We are working hard at many levels to effect changes that will help people coping with these "invisible illnesses". We greatly appreciate and thank you for your support.

Ms. Gisella Imbrogno @ 235 Jefferson Sideroad. Richmond Hill L4E 3N5



# FIBROMYALGIA

insomnia depression anxiety  
spatial disorientation widespread pain  
communication difficulties memory problems  
intolerance to bright lights  
morning stiffness in the muscles and joints  
irritable bowel syndrome  
attention deficit disorder  
muscle spasms severe and debilitating fatigue  
sensitivity to weather and temperature changes  
intolerance to sound  
rashes and itching changes in visual acuity  
severe muscle weakness  
recurrent flu-like illness severe allergies  
headaches  
restless leg syndrome  
heart palpitations  
muscle and joint aches with tender and trigger points

it's real  
painful  
devastating

for more information, visit [www.FM-CFS.ca](http://www.FM-CFS.ca)

## **\*\*So Come Join Us, You Are Not Alone\*\***

When: First Thursday of every month  
Where: St. Mary's Immaculate Catholic Church (Lower Level)  
10295 Yonge Street (corner of Yonge and Dunlop St.) Richmond Hill  
Time: 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. **\*\*free\*\*** Membership and Admission  
Format: Group Discussions, Guest Speakers, Socials etc.

For More Information Please Contact:  
Gisella at 905-884-6169

April 26, 2006

Memo: Pat Miller, Clerks Office  
From: Bonnie Leonard ext 4891  
Re: PROCLAMATION May 13, 2006 South Asian Day

Pat as discussed, here is the proclamation that Deputy Mayor Frank Scarpitti wishes to move at the May 9, 2006 Council Meeting:

Whereas the United Way of York Region L.E.A.D. Study, has determined that residents of South Asian origin are not effectively accessing available social services;

And whereas the Social Services Network was established as in information service linking the South Asian community in York Region to service providers;

And whereas the Social Services Network aims to remove the barriers that prevent members of the South Asian community from accessing programs and services;

And whereas the Social Services Network organized "South Asian Day" at the Town of Markham municipal offices on May 13, 2006;

And whereas the Town of Markham is renowned for its cultural diversity and wishes to congratulate the Social Services Network on its achievements:

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Town of Markham hereby proclaims May 13, 2006, as "South Asian Day" in the Town of Markham and encourages The Social Services Network to continue its work on behalf of the South Asian community.



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## *Spirit. Breakthrough & Hope*

April 21, 2006

Mayor W. Donald Cousens  
Town of Markham  
Anthony Roman Centre  
101 Town Centre Blvd.  
Markham, ON L3R 9W3

Dear Mayor Cousens:

In 2005, the Town of Markham graciously proclaimed June as Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Awareness Month. We would like to thank you for helping raise awareness of these life long, complex conditions.

The Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario (SB&H), a registered charity, has been making a positive difference in the lives of individuals affected by spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus (sb/h) for over 33 years. SB&H provides support through the many challenges brought on by these serious, disabling conditions.

We are requesting that the Town of Markham once again declare June as Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Awareness Month. We enclose a sample declaration for your convenience.

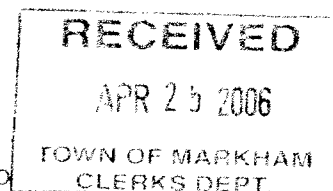
Again, thank you for making a difference in through your proclamation and for considering this year's request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Derryn V. Gill'.

Derryn V. Gill  
Chair, Board of Directors

APR 25 2006



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Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario

555 Richmond Street West, P.O. Box 103, Suite 1006, Toronto, Ontario, M5V 3B1

Phone (416) 214-1056 • (800) 387-1575 • Fax (416) 214-1446

E-mail: [provincial@sbhao.on.ca](mailto:provincial@sbhao.on.ca) • [www.sbhao.on.ca](http://www.sbhao.on.ca) • Charitable Registration #10799 9310 RR0001

## **SAMPLE PROCLAMATION**

- WHEREAS*** the Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario serves people with spina bifida and hydrocephalus and their families; and
- WHEREAS*** Health Canada has proclaimed June as Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Awareness Month; and
- WHEREAS*** the there are many people who are not aware of the Association or that it offers support, information and education programs and funds research to find ways to prevent and treat these conditions; and
- WHEREAS*** the Association encourages all Ontarians to learn more about these conditions and to appreciate the challenges faced by individuals affected by them, therefore

### **BE IT RESOLVED**

That the Town of Markham hereby proclaims the month of June to be

### **SPINA BIFIDA AND HYDROCEPHALUS AWARENESS MONTH**

in the Town of Markham and I urge all citizens to give full consideration and attention to the Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario for their work on behalf of those with spina bifida and hydrocephalus and their families.

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Signature

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Date

**PFLAG CANADA**  
**York Region**

APR 24 2006

April 20, 2006

Mayor Don Cousens & Council  
Town of Markham  
101 Town Centre Boulevard  
Markham, ON L3R 9W3

**Re: York Region PRIDE Week 2006 ~ June 12 through 18**

Dear Mayor Cousens and Council,

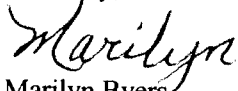
I am writing to request Proclamation of *Pride Week* in Markham, June 12 through 18, 2006.

PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual, transgendered, two-spirit, intersex, queer, and questioning persons, their families and friends. We provide support and information about sexual orientation and gender identity at regular monthly meetings where all are welcome. We also make speakers available for community groups and schools.

As you may be aware, April marks the mid-point of PFLAG Canada-York Region's special project: "*Stop Hate Crimes*". In cooperation with York Regional Police and with funding from Ministry of the Attorney General, Ontario Victim Services Secretariat, we launched a Regional billboard and bus shelter ad campaign to spread the message that "*someone you know and love is gay*" and "*being gay is not a crime, bashing is*". Along with the billboard campaign, we are facilitating a victim support group; making posters and brochures available to community groups and schools throughout the Region; and hosting an informational web site. Your Proclamation of Pride Week again this June would be a fitting way to mark the end of this important awareness-raising campaign.

The Proclamation of Pride Week is a valued acknowledgment of the lives and contributions of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. This year marks the sixth annual celebration of Pride Week in York Region and we look forward to your positive response regarding the continuation of this important tradition in Markham.

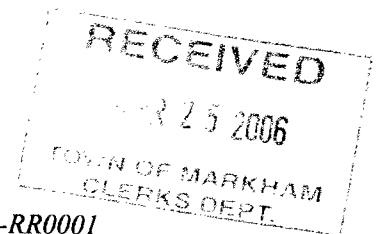
Sincerely,



Marilyn Byers  
President, PFLAG Canada-York Region  
Director, PFLAG Canada

Enclosures: *Stop Hate Crimes* brochure  
Suggested Proclamation Wording

*PFLAG York Region is a non-profit charitable organization. Charitable # 86159-2244-RR0001*



**Suggested wording for:**

**PRIDE WEEK PROCLAMATION**

**June 12 through 18, 2006**

WHEREAS, \_\_\_\_\_ is a community where diversity is recognized and celebrated; and

WHEREAS, the Town/City continues to lead with ideals of human rights for all individuals, couples and families; and

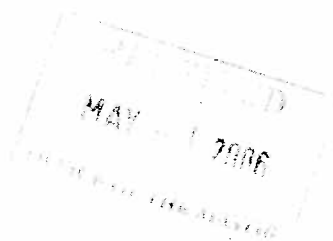
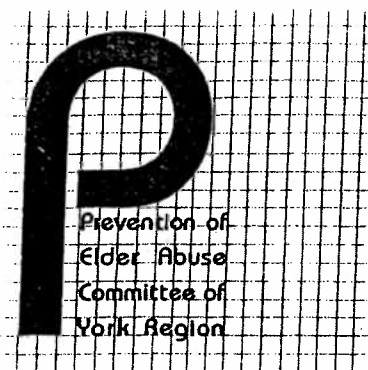
WHEREAS, our community continues to provide special attention and focus on the needs of all of our youth, that we may instill in them a sense of pride and quality of life by adhering to a zero tolerance of discrimination and hatred, which offers them a safer and greater future; and

WHEREAS, the social and cultural heritage of our Town/City has been enriched by the contributions of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities; and

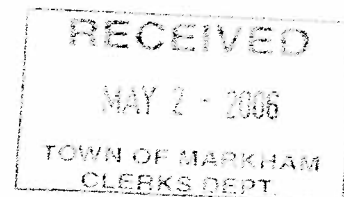
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of \_\_\_\_\_ does hereby recognize and salute Pride Week in York Region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council does hereby proclaim June 12 - 18, 2006 as "Pride Week" in \_\_\_\_\_.

DATED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2006.



Mayor Don Cousens  
Town of Markham  
101 Town Centre Blvd.  
Markham Ont.  
L3R 9W3



April 21, 2006

Dear: Mayor Don Cousens

I am writing on behalf of the **Prevention of Elder Abuse Committee of York Region**. I wish to inform you that on June 15, 2006 the province will be proclaiming **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day**. I have taken the liberty of enclosing information regarding our Committee.

The World Health Organization has proclaimed June 15, 2006 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day and so our Committee is requesting that your Council join with others from around the world to declare June 15, 2006 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Enclosed is a copy of a declaration that we hope you will find helpful.

Further to this declaration, we are planning a "**Senior's Awareness Day**", at the **Newmarket Seniors Centre** from **1:30pm - 4:00pm** on **June 15, 2006**. This dynamic event invites participation from community seniors and their families. Local community members, including the York Regional Police Officers, have been invited to provide strategies to help prevent elder abuse and to provide information about the various forms of elder abuse which include physical abuse, financial abuse and neglect. Participants will have the opportunity to interact and discuss issues pertaining to elder abuse through the use of skits and other presentation formats.

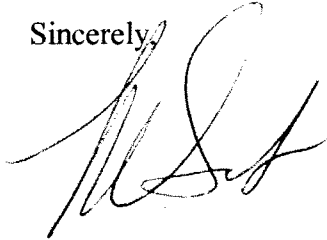
This will be the first in a series of Elder Abuse Awareness presentations to be held in York Region with the goal of enhancing seniors' safety and awareness by providing them with information regarding all aspects of abuse and prevention, including information on the community agencies available to assist seniors. The series will provide this valuable information to many of the diverse ethnic communities that help York Region thrive and flourish.



Your participation by proclaiming "**World Elder Abuse Awareness Day**" will help promote recognition and awareness of elder abuse as a public health and human rights issue. We are looking forward to an enjoyable day, where seniors and their families can meet and talk with service providers regarding these important issues.

Thank you for your support in promoting this event. If you have any questions please contact Miriam Snider-Petry 905-895-1334 Ext. 6510 or email [ms\\_p05@msn.com](mailto:ms_p05@msn.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MS-P', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end.

*Miriam Snider-Petry*

Miriam Snider-Petry

Chair Prevention of Elder Abuse Committee of York Region.

Encl.

## World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Municipal Declaration

Whereas: (Country Name)'s seniors deserve to live safely with dignity, and as independently as possible, with the supports they need.

Whereas: Elder abuse is most often defined as any act that harms a senior or jeopardizes his or her health or welfare.

Whereas: Eliminating abuse to older persons is each community's responsibility; the (City/Town) of (Name) is concerned about the risk to our older residents who suffer from neglect or are victims of financial, emotional or physical abuse.

Whereas: All of our residents should watch for signs of abuse such as physical trauma, withdrawal, depression, anxiety, fear of family members, friends or caregivers; and

Therefore: I, Mayor (insert name), on behalf of the (City,Town) of (Name) Council and the people of our great city, do hereby proclaim June 15, 2006 as Elder Abuse Awareness Day and encourage everyone to commit to build safer communities for our elderly residents.

Signed: Mayor \_\_\_\_\_

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## Prevention of Elder Abuse Committee of York Region

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### WHO WE ARE....

The **Prevention of Elder Abuse Committee of York Region** is a collaboration of healthcare and social service providers in York Region that was formed in 1990. Over the past **16 years**, members of the Committee have become knowledgeable and a valuable resource in the community to respond to elder abuse.

The Committee is seen as the leaders in York Region, whose members can be contacted by other agencies for support and it also helps facilitate linkages between agencies in responding to abuse and other related issues. There is no other committee that encompasses agencies from both health and social service of this kind in the community of York Region who meets regularly to specifically address issues related to the prevention of elder abuse or develops programs/tools to assist vulnerable seniors and families. We hope that seniors will also join this committee and become active in these activities.

The **Prevention of Elder Abuse Committee of York Region** is an independent committee with the **GOAL** of facilitating the planning and coordination of educational activities related to elder abuse prevention in York Region and brings awareness of elder abuse issues to all segments of the York Region community. The Committee is dedicated to the awareness and promotion of prevention of elder abuse in York Region and acts as a resource on elder abuse to the community.

### **This committee has accomplished significant projects since it started including:**

- Development of an *Elder Abuse Awareness Manual* (1993),
- Protocol on *The Identification and Detection of Elder Abuse (IDEA)*
- Participated in hosting a Community Connecting Modules workshop (Feb 03)
- Received Community Crime Prevention Grant (\$11,900):
  - Purchased a display board (multi-lingual)
  - Produced 20,000 brochures which were translated into four (4) languages English, French, Chinese and Italian (2002)
- Launched Pamphlet (2003)
- Rotation of the Elder Abuse Display board at Senior Centres, LTC homes, etc – expansion of visibility in York region to heighten profile of issue (2004 - on-going)
- Participated in the Best Practices Resource Guide Focus Group (2004)
- Participated in a joint meeting with other central east elder abuse networks to discuss protocol development and share ideas of the Committee's work (2005)
- Ongoing collaboration with community agencies and organizations, police, and seniors
- Provision of "Free" education initiatives on topics relevant for seniors and health providers who are working with the seniors in the region (on-going)
  - Community education session at McConaghy Centre 1998
  - Northern York region with school children 1999
  - Two education sessions with religious leaders 1999

- Education to seniors group Stouffville 2005
  - Organized Public Guardian and Trustee Presentation–full attendance! (2005)
- Grant Application sent to New Horizons and accepted for promoting awareness in the senior population.
- Incorporated educational days into core Committee meetings to update members on services for older adults in York Region (on-going)

The effort and accomplishment achieved by this Committee have improved the coordination of services in York Region which has had a positive impact for seniors themselves, their families and caregivers seeking assistance.