

**From:** Sonia Velji <[sonia@bcepilepsy.com](mailto:sonia@bcepilepsy.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 17, 2024 9:34 AM

**To:** Chelsea Smirle <[chelsea@districtofmackenzie.ca](mailto:chelsea@districtofmackenzie.ca)>

**Subject:** Request for Illumination of Mackenzie Recreation Centre in Purple on March 26th, 2024

Dear Chelsea,

As you may already be aware, epilepsy is one of the most common neurological conditions, however, it currently has the least recognition in society.

My name is Deirdre Syms, and I am the Executive Director of the BC Epilepsy Society, which is a provincially incorporated non-profit organization and a federally registered charitable organization. We support the over 50,000 people living with epilepsy in BC and their families, friends and loved ones and work to raise awareness of epilepsy in the communities in which we live.

We are excited to let you know that International PURPLE DAY® for Epilepsy Awareness is coming up and will be taking place on March 26th, 2024.

International PURPLE DAY® for Epilepsy Awareness is a time when people in countries around the world wear purple and take part in events and activities to raise much-needed awareness of epilepsy.

Additionally, because International PURPLE DAY® for Epilepsy Awareness is also a time when many buildings and landmarks in countries around the world are lit with purple lights to raise awareness of epilepsy, the BC Epilepsy Society would like to request that Mackenzie Recreation Centre be lit with purple lights on March 26th, 2024, in honour of epilepsy awareness.

Through your participation in International PURPLE DAY® for Epilepsy Awareness on March 26th, 2024, you will not only be able to show people living with epilepsy that they are not alone but will also get people talking about epilepsy in an effort to raise awareness of epilepsy in the community.

We look forward to working with you on International PURPLE DAY® for Epilepsy Awareness on March 26th, 2024, and in the future. Please feel free to contact me via email at [deirdre@bcepilepsy.com](mailto:deirdre@bcepilepsy.com) or via telephone at 1-788-533-0790 should you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,  
Deirdre Syms  
Executive Director  
BC Epilepsy Society

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Kind regards,  
Sonia Velji  
Provincial Manager of Programs and Services  
BC Epilepsy Society

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 30521, Burnaby RPO Madison, BC V5C 6J5

**Phone:** 236-334-7087

**Email:** [sonia@bcepilepsy.com](mailto:sonia@bcepilepsy.com)

**Website:** [www.bcepilepsy.com](http://www.bcepilepsy.com)

**Social Media:**

**Instagram:** [BCEpilepsySociety](https://www.instagram.com/BCEpilepsySociety)

**Facebook:** [BC Epilepsy Society](https://www.facebook.com/BCEpilepsySociety)

**Twitter:** [BCEpilepsy](https://twitter.com/BCEpilepsy)

**The BC Epilepsy Society empowers, educates, and supports British Columbians living with epilepsy.**

**From:** Sonia Velji <[sonia@bcepilepsy.com](mailto:sonia@bcepilepsy.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 18, 2024 11:06 AM  
**To:** District Information <[info@districtofmackenzie.ca](mailto:info@districtofmackenzie.ca)>  
**Subject:** Request for Proclamation from the District of Mackenzie

To Whom It May Concern,

As you may already be aware, epilepsy is one of the most common neurological conditions, however, it currently has the least recognition in society.

My name is Deirdre Syms, and I am the Executive Director of the BC Epilepsy Society, which is a provincially incorporated non-profit organization and a federally registered charitable organization. We support the over 50,000 people living with epilepsy in BC and their families, friends and loved ones and work to raise awareness of epilepsy in the communities in which we live.

We are excited to let you know that International PURPLE DAY® for Epilepsy Awareness is coming up and will be taking place on March 26th, 2024. International PURPLE DAY® for Epilepsy Awareness is a time when people in countries around the world take part in events and activities to raise much-needed awareness of epilepsy.

We would like to request a Proclamation from the Mayor and Council designating March 26th, 2024, as International PURPLE DAY® for Epilepsy Awareness in the District of Mackenzie. Included with this email correspondence is a document outlining our draft Proclamation.

Through your participation in International PURPLE DAY® for Epilepsy Awareness on March 26th, 2024, you will not only be able to show people living with epilepsy that they are not alone but will also get people talking about epilepsy in an effort to raise awareness of epilepsy in the community.

We look forward to working with you on International PURPLE DAY® for Epilepsy Awareness on March 26th, 2024, and in the future. Please feel free to contact me via email at [deirdre@bcepilepsy.com](mailto:deirdre@bcepilepsy.com) or via telephone at 1-788-533-0790 should you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,  
Deirdre Syms  
Executive Director  
BC Epilepsy Society

Kind regards,  
Sonia Velji  
Provincial Manager of Programs and Services  
BC Epilepsy Society

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## 2024 Proclamation Draft

"Purple Day"

WHEREAS Purple Day is celebrated on March 26 annually, during Epilepsy Awareness Month, to increase the knowledge and understanding of epilepsy in the community;

AND WHEREAS Purple Day was founded in 2008 by Cassidy Megan, a nine-year-old girl from Nova Scotia, who wanted people living with epilepsy that they were not alone;

AND WHEREAS On Purple Day, people in communities around the world are encouraged to wear purple and host events in support of epilepsy awareness;

AND WHEREAS There are over 50,000 people in British Columbia, over 380,000 people in Canada and over 65 Million people worldwide living with epilepsy;

AND WHEREAS The onset of epilepsy can occur at any stage of life and does not discriminate against age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status, geographic location, or sexual orientation;

AND WHEREAS Purple Day can improve the quality of life of people living with epilepsy, create a society that embraces the beauty of difference and help us understand how we can all come together to make the world a better place:

NOW THEREFORE I **[Insert Name and Title]** DO HEREBY PROCLAIM Tuesday March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024 as

"PURPLE DAY"

in the **[Insert Name of Province/City/Municipality/Town/Village]**.