



Melanoma and Skin Cancer Awareness Month

May 1 to 31, 2025

WHEREAS It is imperative that communities across Canada be reminded of the importance of sun safety;

AND WHEREAS Over-exposure to UV radiation is one of the major causes of melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers;

AND WHEREAS Skin cancer is the most common of all cancers. 1 in 6 Canadians born in the 1990s will get skin cancer in their lifetimes;

AND WHEREAS Many people seek sun without taking the advisable precautionary measures and are unaware that any darkening of skin colour, including a tan, is indicative of UV damage;

AND WHEREAS Skin self-examinations should be performed on a monthly basis because skin cancers are highly treatable when detected early;

AND WHEREAS Save Your Skin Foundation is dedicated to the fight against non-melanoma skin cancers, melanoma and ocular melanoma through nationwide education, advocacy, and awareness initiatives;

NOW THEREFORE Members of Okotoks Town Council do hereby proclaim May 2025, as "Melanoma and Skin Cancer Awareness Month" in Okotoks.

--ORIGINAL SIGNED--

Town of Okotoks
5 Elizabeth Street
Okotoks, AB
T1S 1K1

Dear Mayor Tanya Thorn and Council,

As May marks both Melanoma Awareness Month and the beginning of summer, it is imperative that communities across Canada are reminded of the importance of sun safety at this time of the year. In order to keep your citizens aware, informed, and vigilant about the potential risks of over-exposure to UV radiation, we ask that you, as a mayoral body, **publicly proclaim May as Melanoma Awareness Month in your municipality.**

Over-exposure to UV radiation is one of the major causes of melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers. Though skin cancers should be largely preventable, their diagnosis rates are increasing. Skin cancer is the most common of all cancers. **1 in 6 Canadians born in the 1990s will get skin cancer in their lifetimes.** There are more new cases of skin cancer each year than the number of breast, prostate, lung and colon cancers COMBINED. While most forms of non-melanoma skin cancer can be surgically removed, melanoma is an aggressive form of cancer. The five-year relative survival rate of melanoma that has metastasized is 18%.

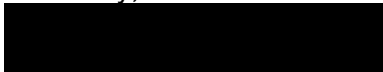
Despite these figures, many people seek sun without taking the advisable precautionary measures, or believe that only severe burns contribute to ones risk of skin cancer. In fact, **any darkening of skin colour, including a tan, is indicative of UV damage.**

In May 2018, the Mayor of Parksville, Marc Lefebvre, proclaimed May as Melanoma Awareness Month, endorsed melanoma awareness, and cited the Save Your Skin Foundation as a resource for more information regarding melanoma. In May 2025, **we challenge you to follow Parksville's example** and promote sun safety, skin cancer awareness, and early detection information among your population. If you choose to do so, Save Your Skin Foundation will provide you with an online resource package providing information on these matters and a certificate recognizing your municipality's efforts.

Save Your Skin Foundation is a Canadian non-profit registered charity founded by North Vancouver resident and melanoma survivor Kathleen Barnard. It is dedicated to the fight against non-melanoma skin cancers, melanoma and ocular melanoma through nationwide education, advocacy, and awareness initiatives like this one.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Barnard, Founder and President
Save Your Skin Foundation



Proclamation, Lighting or Flag Request at the Municipal Centre

Community Safety & Organizational Excellence
5 Elizabeth Street
Okotoks AB T1S 1K1
Inquiries: Phone 403.938.8900 or cao@okotoks.ca

Please Note: Please ensure your request has come in no less than 10 business days prior to the requested Start Date.

Name of the Requesting Organization *

Save your skin foundation

Occasion Title *

"MELANOMA AND SKIN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH"

Request Type *

- ☒ Proclamation
☐ Lighting of the Municipal Centre
☐ Courtesy Flag Raising

If requesting a proclamation, the proclamation document must be uploaded below.

Proclamation Start Date *

2025-05-01

Proclamation End Date *

2025-05-31

Please provide comments to support your request below:

May marks the beginning of summer and is a critical time to remind communities across Canada of the importance of sun safety and skin cancer prevention. Over-exposure to UV radiation is one of the leading causes of melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers. Despite being largely preventable, skin cancer diagnosis rates continue to rise, with 1 in 6 Canadians born in the 1990s expected to develop skin cancer in their lifetime.

Last year, over 45 municipalities across Canada joined us in proclaiming May as Melanoma and Skin Cancer Awareness Month. By participating in this initiative, you will help raise awareness, educate your community, and promote sun safety practices.

As part of this initiative, we would be honored to have our President or a member of our Board present to your council to discuss the importance of sun safety, the significance of this proclamation, and the impact of melanoma and skin cancer on Canadian communities.

Contact Information

| First Name * | Last Name * | Phone * |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Taylor | Tomko | 604.612.8745 |

Email *

taylorkathleen@saveyourskin.ca

Address *

Street Address
#813-800 Vista Park
Address Line 2

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| City | State/Province/Region |
| Penticton | BC |
| Postal/Zip Code | Country |
| V2A 0B2 | Canada |

Please upload the proclamation document and any other documents or details supporting your request (i.e.: letter from organization, promotional material, etc.). *

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| Okotoks Mayor Proclamation Request.pdf | 513.83KB |
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| Okotoks Proclamation Template.docx | 14.72KB |
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