



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Month of May, has been internationally designated as "GBS and CIDP Awareness Month" to educate the public and to focus attention on Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) and Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy (CIDP), rare, paralyzing and potentially catastrophic disorders of the peripheral nerves; and

WHEREAS, Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) and its variants, are rare conditions which can be characterized by rapid onset of weakness and, often, paralysis of the legs, arms, breathing muscles and face, in some cases leading to complete paralysis requiring life-sustaining hospital care. Often accompanied with excruciating pain, and

WHEREAS, Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy (CIDP) and its variants, are rare progressive conditions, which can be characterized by the onset of weakness, numbness and tingling, which can lead to the paralysis of the legs and arms and effect other areas of the body, and it is not uncommon for individuals to endure significant pain, and

WHEREAS, the cause of GBS and CIDP is unknown, and these conditions can develop in any person, regardless of age, gender or ethnic background, and

WHEREAS, GBS and CIDP have a slow and unpredictable recovery, patients and their families face an uncertain future, usually requiring months of hospital care without knowing if or when they will recover, or whether they will face long-term disabilities. Earlier diagnosis, treatment, and access to rehabilitation services can improve the chances of avoiding permanent lifelong residual damage of the nerves, and

WHEREAS, in 2003, GBS/CIDP Foundation of Canada a patient organization providing support, education, research, and advocacy, was founded so that no patient or family would go through GBS, CIDP, and variants such as MMN alone.





GBS/CIDP Foundation of Canada

Guillain-Barré Syndrome/Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy
Support, Education, Research, Advocacy

Honorary Board

Larry Brenneman (*deceased*)
Tom Feasby, MD
Angelika Hahn, MD
Susan Keast, *Founder*
Serge Payer
Kenneth Shonk, MD

Executive Director

Donna Hartlen

Officers

Darryl Bedford
President
Holly Gerlach
Vice President
Howard Huss
Treasurer

Board of Directors

Darryl Bedford
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Alexandre Grant
Howard Huss
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Akash Purewal
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Demetrios Strongolos
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Steven Baker, MD
Brenda Banwell, MD
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Pierre Bourque, MD
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Colin Chalk, MD
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Angelika Hahn, MD
Hans Katzberg, MD
Kurt Kimpinski, MD
Sandrine Larue, MD
Rami Massie, MD
Elizabeth Pringle, MD
Zaeem Siddiqi, MD
Jiri Vajsar, MD
Chris White, MD
Douglas Zochodne, MD

February 22, 2025

Office of the Mayor
The City of Okotoks
5 Elizabeth St.
Okotoks, AB
T1S 1K1

Dear Mayor Tanya Thorn:

We are writing to respectfully request that the city of Okotoks proclaim May 2025 as GBS/CIDP Awareness Month. The Month of May, has been internationally designated as "GBS and CIDP Awareness Month" to educate the public and to focus attention on these rare conditions. The GBS/CIDP Foundation of Canada is a national, not for profit patient organization that supports patients and families afflicted with Guillain-Barré Syndrome, Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy, and variants such as Multifocal Motor Neuropathy. We serve patients through support, education, research and advocacy.

GBS has a sudden onset of symptoms, which can cause complete paralysis within a day. Recovery can be unpredictable, patients and their families face an uncertain future, usually requiring months of hospital care without knowing if or when they will recover, or whether they will face long-term disabilities. Earlier diagnosis, treatment, and access to rehabilitation services can improve the chances of avoiding permanent lifelong residual damage of the nerves. The cause of these conditions is unknown, and can develop in any person, regardless of age, gender or ethnic background

We are working to raise awareness of these rare conditions so that future patients get help sooner and will know that our organization is here to provide hope. We provide support and information through trained volunteers, our website, materials provided to hospitals, and organize local and online peer-to-peer support group meetings. We provide patient educational events and build awareness within the medical community. We advocate for access to diagnosis and appropriate treatment, and also support Canadian research that aims to improve the quality of life of GBS, CIDP, and variant patients.

While considered rare diseases, in Canada GBS affects 2 in 100,000, and in Zika outbreaks 9-24 in 100,000. CIDP affects 5-7 in 100,000. For more information: www.gbscidp.ca
Please let us know if there is anything further you require for our proclamation request to be approved for this year and for subsequent years.

Thank you for your consideration.



Kim Brooks
Patient Advocate & Volunteer Coordinator
kbrooks@gbscidp.ca
1-
www.gbscidp.ca

Canadian charity registration number: 887327906RR0001

3100 Garden Street, PO Box 80060 RPO Rossland Garden, Whitby, Ontario, L1R 0H1
PH:1-647-560-6842 gbscidp.ca



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 *

GBS/CIDP Foundation of Canada

Occasion Title *

GBS/cidp awareness month

Request Type *

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

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

Which color(s) did you want to display? *

Please specify the lighting colour(s) your organization is requesting.

Blue

Proclamation Start Date *

2025-05-01

Proclamation End Date *

2025-05-31

Lighting Date *

2025-05-03

Please provide comments to support your request below:

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Thank you for your consideration.

Kim Brooks
Patient Advocate & Volunteer Coordinator
kbrooks@gbscidp.ca
1-403 [REDACTED]
www.gbscidp.ca

Contact Information

First Name *	Last Name *	Phone *
Kim	Brooks	[REDACTED]

Email *

kbrooks@gbscidp.ca

Address *

Street Address

[REDACTED] wentworth ave sw

Address Line 2

City

Calgary

Postal/Zip Code

[REDACTED]

State/Province/Region

AB

Country

Canada

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

Okotoks Proclamation Request 2025.pdf	181.37KB
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WhereAs - GBS_CIDP Awareness Month.pdf	146.57KB
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The personal information on this form is being collected under the authority of Section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act and will be used to respond to your request. Should you have any questions regarding the collection or use of your personal information, please contact the FOIP Coordinator at foip@okotoks.ca or 403.938.8944.