

Dear Okotoks City Hall,

I hope this email finds you well.

I am reaching out on behalf of The Environmental Health Association of Canada (EHAC) and The Environmental Health Association of Québec (EHAQ) to kindly request your participation in recognizing **Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) Awareness Day**, which takes place on **May 12, 2026**, by lighting up in support of this important cause.

We are requesting the **lighting of Municipal Centre** in yellow (#FFFF00) and green (#00FF00) on this date. These colours symbolize awareness, hope, and solidarity with the over one million Canadians living with MCS, a condition that often leads to significant life challenges including stigmatization, isolation, and loss of employment.

MCS Awareness Day is dedicated to increasing public understanding of this recognized medical disability, advocating for inclusive environments, and encouraging policy and societal changes to improve the quality of life for those affected. By illuminating [Name of Monument or Landmark], you can play a vital role in helping us bring attention to this important cause and inspire broader community support.

Thank you for considering this initiative. We would be delighted to collaborate with you in spreading awareness and fostering inclusivity. If you have any questions or require additional details, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Best,

Ajeeta Shanmugarajah

Coordonnatrice Communauté et Sensibilisation / Community and Outreach Coordinator
Environmental Health Association of Canada –

Association pour la santé environnementale du Canada - (EHAC-ASEC)

Tel : 514.332.4320 | office@ehac-asec.ca

C.P. 364/ PO Box 364, Saint-Sauveur, Québec J0R 1R1

www.ehac-asec.ca | EcoasisQuebec.ca

Des solutions saines www.LaVieEcolo.ca | Healthy solutions

www.EcoLivingGuide.ca



Environmental Health Association of Canada
Association pour la Santé Environnementale du Canada



Association pour la santé environnementale du Québec
Environmental Health Association of Québec

Selected References and Evidence Base

Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS)

American Medical Association. (2025). *Policy H-135.902: Fragrance sensitivity*.

Recognizes fragrance sensitivity as a condition that may limit major life activities and supports fragrance-free policies, ingredient transparency, research, and clinical awareness.

<https://policysearch.ama-assn.org/policyfinder/detail/%22Fragrance%20Regulation%20H-135.902%22?uri=%2FAMADoc%2FHOD.xml-H-135.902.xml>

Canadian Human Rights Commission. (n.d.). *Policy on environmental sensitivities*. Government of Canada.

Recognizes environmental sensitivities, including multiple chemical sensitivity, as a disability and identifies scent-free and low-toxicity environments as required accommodations.

<https://www.chrc-ccdp.gc.ca/resources/publications/environmental-sensitivities-and-scent-free-policies>

Statistics Canada. (2000–present). *Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS): Multiple chemical sensitivity*. Government of Canada.

Population-level data indicate that **over 1.13 million Canadians have been diagnosed with multiple chemical sensitivity**.

Summary available at: <https://aseq-ehaq.ca/en/mcs-statistics/>

United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. (2025). Concluding observations on the combined second and third periodic reports of Canada.

https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRPD%2FCAN%2FCO%2F2-3&Lang=en

Environmental Health Association of Canada-Association pour la santé environnementale du Canada
Environmental Health Association of Québec-Association pour la santé environnementale du Québec

PO BOX 364, Saint-Sauveur, Québec J0R 1R1

ehac-asec.ca □ aseq-ehac.ca

514 332 4320



Molot, J., Sears, M., & Anisman, H. (2023, February 28). Multiple chemical sensitivity: It's time to catch up to the science. SSRN. <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4373616>

Note: click [here](#) to view the full report from the AMA's Council on Science and Public Health. The AMA's stance on fragrance is listed under the Resolution 501-A-24 and can be found in the pages 749–783.

A joint initiative of the Environmental Health Association of Canada (EHAC-ASEC) and the Environmental Health Association of Québec (ASEQ-EHAQ).

Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Month

May 2026

WHEREAS multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS) is a recognized disability in Canada that can substantially limit major life activities, including breathing, mobility, access to housing, employment, healthcare, education, and public services;

WHEREAS the Canadian Human Rights Commission recognizes environmental sensitivities, including multiple chemical sensitivity, as a disability and affirms that **scent-free environments and the use of lowest-VOC-emission, least-toxic products constitute required accommodations** to ensure equality and non-discrimination;

WHEREAS the American Medical Association has adopted policy recognizing fragrance sensitivity including MCS as a condition that may limit major life activity, and has endorsed **fragrance-free policies, ingredient transparency, research, and clinical awareness as necessary measures to reduce harm and improve access in healthcare and public settings;**

WHEREAS people living with multiple chemical sensitivity may experience serious and disabling health effects when exposed to fragranced products, cleaning agents, pesticides, building materials, and other chemical emissions commonly present in public and private environments;

WHEREAS Canada is a State Party to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and has been directed by the UN Committee to **eliminate discrimination against persons with multiple chemical sensitivity and ensure full equality and inclusion** across all levels of government;

WHEREAS the Accessible Canada Act (2019) establishes a proactive duty to identify, remove, and prevent barriers to accessibility for all persons with disabilities, including through inclusive public environments and services at all levels of government;

WHEREAS Statistics Canada data indicate that more than 1.13 million Canadians have been diagnosed with multiple chemical sensitivity, confirming its prevalence and public-health significance;

WHEREAS May is recognized internationally as **Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Month**, and May 12 as **Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Day**, dedicated to advancing understanding of MCS as a disability and the need for accessible, fragrance-free, and lowest VOC-emission environments;

THEREFORE, Members of Okotoks Town Council do hereby proclaim **May 2026 as Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Month** and **May 12, 2026 as Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Day**, and encourage actions that uphold accessibility, dignity, and human rights for people living with MCS.