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RECEIVED

SEP 03 2020

CITY OF COLD LAKE

Dear Mayor Copeland,

This September 9th marks our 21st Annual International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Day. 47 years ago, FASD was first diagnosed. Today, FASD is the diagnostic term used to describe the broad range of effects that can occur in an individual who was prenatally exposed to alcohol. These effects can include lifelong physical, mental, and behavioural difficulties, as well as learning disabilities.

Drinking alcohol during pregnancy continues to be the leading cause of developmental disabilities around the globe. We want to ensure that our community receives the message that the safest choice for someone who is pregnant or planning to become pregnant is not to drink alcohol. We also recognize that individuals whose drinking puts them at risk for having a child with FASD need to be supported and benefit from open, non judgemental conversations and interventions.

Unfortunately, this year's event will look different due to COVID-19 restrictions. Out of concern for the safety of our community, we have decided to raise awareness without gathering as we typically do. This year, you will notice signs around Lakeland communities with messages about the supports that the Lakeland Centre for FASD offers, and encouragement to have alcohol free pregnancies. We will also be hosting a Live Feed on our Facebook on September 9th to commemorate the day.

We ask that you sign the proclamation to acknowledge FASD Day in the community.

Thank you for taking the time to make this proclamation and for your interest in supporting our efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dmutch", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dallas Mutch

FASD Day Committee

Lakeland Centre for FASD

PROCLAMATION

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Day

September 9, 2020

WHEREAS: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is a diagnostic term that describes the range of effects that can occur in an individual who was prenatally exposed to alcohol; and

WHEREAS: Children and adults with FASD in Canada and around the world experience lifelong physical, mental, and behavioural difficulties, as well as learning disabilities; and

WHEREAS: Caregivers, families, professionals, and individuals living with FASD, as well as others around the world, will observe the 21st International FASD Awareness Day on September 9, 2020, with a minute of reflection at 9:09 a.m.

NOW THEREFORE: I, _____, Mayor/Reeve of _____ on behalf of _____ Council, do hereby proclaim September 9, 2020 as “Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Day” in _____. I encourage everyone to act with compassion and understanding towards individuals who have experienced prenatal alcohol exposure and to take both personal and professional responsibility to become better informed about FASD and prevention strategies.

Signed,
