

Memorandum to the Council of Corporation of the Municipality of Temagami

Subject: World Autism Day 2025 Proclamation Request

Memo No: 2025-M-066

Date: March 27, 2025

Attachment: Appendix A - Autism Ontario World Autism Day Proclamation 2025

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Recommendation

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receives Memo 2025-M-066 as presented;

AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, in accordance with By-Law No. 25-1801, the Municipality of Temagami does not issue proclamations for external organizations or events, and therefore, the request is respectfully declined.

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1. Executive Summary

Autism Ontario has requested that the Municipality of Temagami formally recognize April 2, 2025, as World Autism Day through an official proclamation. However, the municipality operates under By-Law No. 25-1801, which strictly regulates flag displays and prohibits the issuance of proclamations for external groups, events, or causes. This by-law was established to maintain neutrality, prevent potential legal risks, and ensure consistency in municipal recognition policies.

While the municipality acknowledges the importance of autism awareness and inclusion, it is bound by this policy and, therefore, cannot accommodate the request for a formal proclamation or flag-raising event.

2. Municipality of Temagami By-Law 25-1801

- The by-law establishes strict regulations on flag displays and prohibits issuing proclamations for any external groups, events, or causes.
- The municipality follows a neutrality policy to avoid potential legal and administrative issues.
- Flags flown at municipal properties are limited to the National Flag of Canada, the Provincial Flag of Ontario, the Municipal Flag of Temagami, and Indigenous and First Nations Flags.

3. Challenges & Considerations

- The Municipality of Temagami does not issue proclamations for external causes, including World Autism Day.
- Raising an autism awareness flag at municipal properties is not permitted under By-Law 25-1801.

- Legal compliance and administrative efficiency must be maintained while supporting awareness initiatives.

4. Conclusion

While the Municipality of Temagami recognizes the significance of World Autism Day and supports community awareness efforts, it must adhere to By-Law 25-1801, which prohibits proclamations and limits flag displays. As a result, the request for an official proclamation and flag-raising cannot be granted. However, the municipality may explore alternative ways to support awareness efforts, such as sharing information through social media or encouraging community-led initiatives.



A Proclamation on World Autism Day 2025

Whereas:

World Autism Day is recognized on April 2, 2025, in Canada. Autism Ontario is one of the largest collective voices representing the autism community, and the work we do helps all autistic individuals and families in their communities have access to meaningful support, information, and connections — not only on April 2 but every day throughout the year.

Whereas:

Autism impacts more than 135,000 individuals in Ontario, representing 1 in every 50 Canadian children and youth. It not only influences the lives of autistics but also their friends, families, and communities. It's crucial for us to raise awareness, and acceptance, provide support and promote a more inclusive society.

Whereas:

Autism is a diverse spectrum that varies widely among individuals. Each person's experience with autism can change over time. This evolving journey highlights the uniqueness of every autistic individual, emphasizing the need for understanding and support tailored to their specific needs.

Whereas:

Autism Ontario is the leading source of information and referral on autism, and since 1973, has been providing support, information, and opportunities for thousands of families and individuals across the province.

Whereas:

Autism Ontario is devoted to raising public awareness about autism and addressing the everyday challenges faced by individuals with autism, their families, and the professionals who work alongside them. We urge everyone to recognize and celebrate the unique differences and needs of others, fostering an inclusive environment where all individuals can participate fully in activities and discussions. Together, we can create a society that values and includes everyone.

Now Therefore:

BE IT RESOLVED that I, (insert Mayor name or designate), do hereby recognize April 2 as World Autism Day while committing to embrace awareness and acceptance today and every day throughout the year.

Dated at (municipality), Ontario this 2nd day of April 2025.