

June 7, 2010

Mr. Denis Kelly, Regional Clerk
Corporate Services Department
York Region Administration Building
17250 Yonge Street, 4th Floor
Newmarket, Ontario, L3Y 6Z1



Dear Mr. Kelly

I am writing to request that the Regional Municipality of York officially proclaim International Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day (FASDay) on September 9, 2010 and continue to do so in the future.

This day is recognized around the world to bring awareness and greater understanding of the importance of FASD as a public health issue in terms of both prevention of the risk for children prenatally exposed to alcohol and treatment for affected individuals whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy. September 9th is when people around the world shine a spotlight on this devastating disorder that affects 1 in 100 babies. The City of Toronto and Municipalities of Durham, Simcoe and Peel are close neighbors who have already proclaimed this day.

In September 2005 the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Coalition of York Region was formed under the leadership of the York Region Early Intervention program. Representatives from a broad range of community services (child and family services, public health, education, mental health, justice system, and developmental services) with foster and adoptive parents formed the Coalition. The Coalition meets on a quarterly basis with a core of 6 to 8 participants. Recently the Coalition obtained a non-profit incorporation status (#1806369).

People with FASD, which includes the diagnoses of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) and Alcohol-Related Neurodevelopmental Disorder (ARND) are at high risk of learning disabilities, early school drop-out, drug and alcohol addiction, mental illness, imprisonment, unemployment and poverty.

On the ninth minute of the ninth hour of the ninth day of the ninth month, the Coalition would like the residents of York Region to remember that during the nine months of pregnancy, a woman should not drink alcohol. FASD is preventable.

Linda Wheeler

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