



*Markus de Domenico
Trustee Ward 2*

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To: Regular Board Meeting, May 20, 2021

From: Markus de Domenico, Trustee Ward 2

Subject: Declaration of February 15th as Childhood Cancer Awareness Day

MOVED BY: Markus de Domenico, Toronto Catholic District School Board

WHEREAS: Despite huge advances in research, cancer is still the number one disease killing Canadian children today; 1 in 5 Canadian children diagnosed with cancer do not survive;

WHEREAS: Unlike adult cancers, the causes of most childhood cancers are still unknown and are not related to lifestyle and environmental risk factors;

WHEREAS: The incidence of childhood cancer is highest in the first five years of life;

WHEREAS: Each year, about 1,700 new cases of childhood cancer are diagnosed in Canada and approximately 400 are in Ontario;

WHEREAS: High risk cancers, including those of the central nervous system, certain leukemias, neuroblastomas and bone cancers still have relatively low survival rates, between 7%-31% ;

WHEREAS: Childhood cancer claims over 150 young lives each year; those who survive often require ongoing psychosocial, physical, and financial support;

WHEREAS: While over 80% of children survive cancer, more than 60% of survivors face late effects of their disease and treatment, including neurocognitive impairments, sterility, and secondary cancers;

WHEREAS: There are an estimated 30,000 survivors of childhood cancer living in Canada today, most of whom live with life-long health problems related to the cancer treatments they received as a child;

WHEREAS: By the time they turn 45, more than 95% of childhood cancer survivors will have a chronic health problem and 80% will have severe or life-threatening conditions;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board declare **Childhood Cancer Awareness Day** on February 15th each year or the first school day following the 15th if it falls on a weekend.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board consider a superhero shirt day (as our warriors are all superheroes) on 15th of February every year starting in 2022. Students can bring in a toonie for Superhero Shirt Day and all the proceeds will go directly to Childhood Cancer Canada Foundation

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