

Dear Mayor Horn and Council,

As May marks both Melanoma Awareness Month and the beginning of summer, it is imperative that communities across Canada be reminded of the importance of sun safety at this time of the year. In order to keep your citizens aware, informed, and vigilant about the potential risks of over-exposure to UV radiation, we ask that you, as a mayoral body, **publicly proclaim May as Melanoma and Skin Cancer Awareness Month in your municipality.**

Over-exposure to UV radiation is one of the major causes of melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers. Though skin cancers should be largely preventable, their diagnosis rates are increasing. Skin cancer is the most common of all cancers. **1 in 6 Canadians born in the 1990s will get skin cancer in their lifetimes.** There are more new cases of skin cancer each year than the number of breast, prostate, lung and colon cancers COMBINED. While most forms of non-melanoma skin cancer can be surgically removed, melanoma is an aggressive form of cancer. The five-year relative survival rate of melanoma that has metastasized is 18%.

Despite these figures, many people seek sun without taking the advisable precautionary measures, or believe that only severe burns contribute to one's risk of skin cancer. In fact, **any darkening of skin colour, including a tan, is indicative of UV damage.**

Last year, Mayor of New Westminster, Jonathan Côté, challenged BC municipalities to follow his example and promote sun safety, skin cancer awareness, and early detection information among their populations. "Skin cancers are largely preventable, and yet there are more cases now than ever. This is why as Mayor of New Westminster, I'm happy to support this important initiative and challenge all BC municipalities to do the same." 50 municipalities across Canada took up the challenge and proclaimed the month of May "Melanoma and Skin Cancer Awareness Month".

If you choose to participate in the initiative this year, Save Your Skin Foundation will provide you with an **online resource package providing information** on these matters which you can share with your residents.

Save Your Skin Foundation is a Canadian non-profit registered charity founded by North Vancouver resident and melanoma survivor Kathleen Barnard. It is dedicated to the fight against non-melanoma skin cancers, melanoma and ocular melanoma through nationwide education, advocacy, and awareness initiatives like this one.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



**Kathleen Barnard, Founder and President**  
Save Your Skin Foundation