



Office of the Mayor
CITY OF VANCOUVER
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Proclamation

"WORLD HEPATITIS AWARENESS DAY"

- WHEREAS It is estimated that between 500,000 and 600,000 people in Canada are living with hepatitis B and C, and are at risk for developing cirrhosis, liver failure, liver cancer and non-liver related manifestations;
- AND WHEREAS At least 60,000 people are infected with hepatitis B and 60,000 with hepatitis C in British Columbia, of whom at least 15,500 with hepatitis B and 14,500 with hepatitis C reside in Vancouver, as estimated by the BC Centre for Disease Control, but a significant number of infections have yet to be identified;
- AND WHEREAS British Columbia is reported to have some of the highest hepatitis B and hepatitis C infection rates in Canada;
- AND WHEREAS Hepatitis B and hepatitis C are slowly progressive illnesses which may take up to 30 years to damage the liver;
- AND WHEREAS An effective vaccine is available to prevent hepatitis B and treatments are rapidly improving; most hepatitis B infections have been acquired in endemic countries and hence a significant number of immigrants to British Columbia are affected;
- AND WHEREAS No vaccine is available to prevent hepatitis C but harm reduction strategies can help prevent new infections; and while treatments are rapidly improving, most people with hepatitis C remain infected;
- AND WHEREAS World Hepatitis Awareness Day is an ideal opportunity to enhance public awareness and education, reduce stigma, foster tolerance and understanding, acknowledge those affected, and explore ways to better address hepatitis B and C in the future;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gregor Robertson, Mayor of the City of Vancouver, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM
Wednesday, May 19th, 2010 as

"WORLD HEPATITIS AWARENESS DAY"

in the City of Vancouver.

Gregor Robertson
MAYOR

