



PROCLAMATION

WORLD AIDS DAY

December 1, 2022

WHEREAS: December 1st 2022 is World AIDS Day and launches the start of Indigenous AIDS Awareness week in Canada.

WHEREAS: This year's UNAIDS theme is 'Equalize', reminding us that HIV thrives where inequalities persist. December 1st, provides us with an opportunity to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS. It's a time for reflection on what we have achieved with regard to the local, national and global response to HIV, and what we still must achieve.

WHEREAS: In Canada, there are about 65,000 people living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), the precursor to acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). It is important to help combat the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS and highlight that HIV is a manageable virus.

WHEREAS: We have made massive gains in our understanding of the disease. We have developed medications that allow people living with HIV to live long and healthy lives. We have the scientific consensus about U=U (Undetectable=Untransmittable), that people living with HIV who take their medication as prescribed are unable to transmit the virus to their sexual partners. Through proper diagnosis and treatment, people living with HIV can lead healthy lives.

WHEREAS: The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted existing inequalities for people living with HIV. This year's theme "Equalize" focuses on providing equitable access to services and treatment to communities and people facing disproportionate barriers.

WHEREAS: Four decades into the HIV response, inequalities still persist for the most basic services like testing, treatment, and condoms, and even more so for new technologies. The inequalities which perpetuate the AIDS pandemic are not inevitable; we can tackle them. This World AIDS Day, December 1st, each of us can learn about and reflect on the issues and look to addressing the inequalities which are holding back progress in ending AIDS.

WHEREAS: World AIDS Day remains as relevant today as it's always been, reminding people and governments that HIV has not gone away. There is still a critical need for increased funding for the AIDS response, to increase awareness of the impact of HIV on people's lives, to end stigma and discrimination and to improve the quality of life of people living with HIV.

WHEREAS: Everyone can join the awareness campaign by wearing a red ribbon on World AIDS Day to show their solidarity with people whose lives are affected by HIV/AIDS. The City of Fredericton supports organizations and individuals committed to raising awareness about HIV/AIDS that affects all Canadians, and mourns those who have died as a result of the disease.

THEREFORE: I, Mayor Kate Rogers, on behalf of Fredericton City Council, do hereby proclaim December 1, 2022 as "World AIDS Day" in the City of Fredericton


MAYOR