

The Regional Municipality of York  
17250 Yonge Street  
Newmarket, ON  
L3Y 6Z1

Please Give  
to Clerk  
WJ

**Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020**

Dear York Region Chairman and CEO Wayne Emmerson,

Epilepsy York Region (EYR) is a non-profit organization which supports individuals and their families living with epilepsy. For the last 32 years we have been advocating, supporting, educating, promoting public awareness and developing programs for those with epilepsy based on their needs. Currently, in York Region alone, there is estimated to be 11, 000 individuals with epilepsy. This breaks down to 1 in every 100 people in our catchment area and makes it likely for someone to personally know at least one individual with epilepsy.

Although our resources and tools have worked to support so many across York Region living with epilepsy, the stigma that so many live with often outweighs the seizure itself. Many, especially children, are left feeling embarrassed, alone and isolated from their friends, peers and families. To combat this stigma, the month of March, and specifically Purple Day, which is celebrated on March 26<sup>th</sup> annually, has been marked internationally to raise awareness, dispel the myths associated to this disease, and to increase education. Purple Day invites those across the world to wear purple on March 26<sup>th</sup> in support of those with epilepsy and help those individuals understand they are not alone in their unknown ending battle with epilepsy.

It is an opportunity for those living with epilepsy to reach out and let the community know that seizures do not define who they are; they can still be a loving parent and spouse, a fun child, a productive employee, a learning student, a thriving talented individual and most of all, a friend.

We at Epilepsy York Region are reaching out to you, in hopes that the Municipality of York will proclaim March as epilepsy awareness month and March 26<sup>th</sup> as Purple Day. In addition, if there is a possibility of lighting a local landmark purple on March 26<sup>th</sup> showing your support, we would love to be part of this initiative!

Yours truly,



Claudia Cozza  
Executive Director  
Epilepsy York Region