

Proclamation

International Stuttering Awareness Day (ISAD)

WHEREAS, today is intended to raise public awareness of stuttering, which affects about 1% of the population, totaling approximately 70 million worldwide and approximately 350,000 Canadians; and

WHEREAS, today people who stutter represent a diverse group of individuals with different occupations, diverse cultural identities, personal experiences and accomplishments. Stuttering is not something that receives a lot of attention and is poorly understood by so many. As a not for profit charitable association, The Newfoundland and Labrador Stuttering Association **Mandate is Advocacy and Support for people who stutter**; and

WHEREAS, today, millions of children, adolescents, and adults face the daily physical, emotional, and psychological challenges of living with a stutter, including stereotyping and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, today, we must ensure that these children, adolescents, and adults who stutter can access affordable and effective speech therapy if they wish, and find help through the combined efforts of speech-language professionals and consumer support organizations; and

WHEREAS, today is an opportunity to support speech-language pathologists and allied health professionals who work with those who stutter; and

WHEREAS, today is an opportunity to ensure that the 'VOICE' of people who stutter is heard by influencing and advancing issues relevant to people who stutter at all political levels; and

WHEREAS, today marks an international commitment to educate people about this complex disorder, to work toward the prevention of stuttering in children, and to support continued research to find the causes of stuttering.

THEREFORE: I, Mayor Danny Breen, do hereby proclaim **October 22, 2019**, as **International Stuttering Awareness Day (ISAD)** in the City of St. John's.

Signed at City Hall, St. John's, NL on this 21st day of October, 2019.

Danny Breen, Mayor