

<b>TO:</b>	<b>CHAIR AND MEMBERS CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING SEPTEMBER 21, 2020</b>
<b>FROM:</b>	<b>CATHY SAUNDERS CITY CLERK</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>APPLICATION – ISSUANCE OF PROCLAMATION DWARFISM AWARENESS AND ACCEPTANCE MONTH</b>

**RECOMMENDATION**

That, the Civic Administration BE ADVISED as to how Municipal Council wishes to proceed with the attached (Appendix “A”) Proclamation request.

**PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER**

Corporate Services Committee – December 3, 2019  
Corporate Services Committee – January 6, 2020

**BACKGROUND**

The Issuance of Proclamations Policy is attached as Schedule “A” for information purposes.

**CONCLUSION**

The Civic Administration is seeking direction from the Municipal Council as to how they wish to proceed with the attached (Appendix “A”) proclamation request received August 31, 2020 from the Little People of Ontario requesting the month of October be proclaimed Dwarfism Awareness and Acceptance Month.

The following sets out the review process for Applications for proclamations:

- The cause or event must contribute to the economic, social and cultural fabric of the City of London
- Proclamations will not be issued for the following:
  - i. Matters of political controversy, ideological or religious beliefs or individual conviction
  - ii. Events or organizations with no direct connection to the city
  - iii. Campaigns or events contrary to City of London policies or by-laws
  - iv. National, Independence or Republic Days
  - v. Campaigns or events intended for profit-making purposes
  - vi. Recognition of individuals
  - vii. Recognition of events or organizations that espouse discrimination, hatred, violence or racism
  - viii. Matters attempting to influence government policy
  - ix. Matters designed to incite hatred or disorder

The Civic Administration is seeking direction from Municipal Council with respect to this matter.

<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>
<b>CATHY SAUNDERS CITY CLERK</b>

**APPENDIX "A"**

Requests for the issuance of proclamations are governed by Council Policy (excerpted below). Requests must be received at least six (6) weeks in advance of the requested issuance date and may be emailed to the City Clerk at [ClerksApprovalRequests@london.ca](mailto:ClerksApprovalRequests@london.ca) or mailed to City Hall, P.O. Box 5035 LONDON, ON, N6A 4L9.

**Request details**

<b>Name of Organization</b> Little People of Ontario				
<b>Date Proclamation Required</b> October 1, 2020 but up to October 25, 2020 would work as well.				
<b>Proclamation Name</b> Dwarfism Awareness and Acceptance Month				
<b>Proclamation Type (day, week or month)</b> Month				
<b>Category (public awareness campaigns), (charitable fundraising campaigns), (arts and cultural celebrations)</b> Charitable Public Awareness and Acceptance Campaign				
<b>Requester Name</b> Eric McArthur, LPO Family Ambassador, London Chapter				
<b>Requester Telephone Number</b> 647-849-9844				
<b>Requester Email Address</b> eric.mcarthur@lpo.on.ca				
<b>Requester Address</b> 130 Ross Avenue, Dorchester, ON, N0L 1G1				
<b>Provide details of your Organization's Connection to London</b> <small>October as Dwarfism Awareness and Acceptance Month is recognized by Cities, and Countries around the world supported by organizations like the Little People of Ontario, the Little People of Canada, the Little People of America and other provincial and international Little People groups. This campaign is dedicated to increase public knowledge and diminish stereotypes and negative misconceptions of people with dwarfism. While as a community we don't like to think of short stature itself as a disability, the medical complications of dwarfism can be quite extensive and disabling. There are over 350 different types of dwarfism each having their own set of physical, psychological and social challenges. In an interview in 2012 with the New York Times Magazine, Golden Globe winning actor Peter Dinklage was quoted saying, "Dwarfs are still the butt of jokes. It's one of the last bastions of acceptable prejudice." This prejudice should not be acceptable. Even as recently as 2019, UK comedian Jimmy Carr as part of his show asked the audience if people with dwarfism were simply abortions that lived. While it may have been said in jest, the perpetuation of these ideas and images continues to deprecate and marginalize not only the Little People community but all those who identify as having a disability. A proclamation declaring October as Dwarfism Awareness and Acceptance Month by the City of London this year would help local initiatives by charitable and not-for-profit organizations like LPO, overcome those challenges and remediate the prejudice.</small>				
<b>Required Supporting Documents</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detail information on the Organization</li> <li>• Detail information on the Event</li> <li>• Confirmation of authorization from the Organization to submit the request</li> </ul>				
The undersigned confirms that I am the Official Representative of the Organization requesting the Proclamation and that by signing this Application, I acknowledge and agree that my organization complies with all City of London's Policies and By-laws.  <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Eric McArthur</td> <td style="width: 50%; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">28 August 2020</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Signature</td> <td>Date</td> </tr> </table>	Eric McArthur	28 August 2020	Signature	Date
Eric McArthur	28 August 2020			
Signature	Date			
<b>NOTICE OF COLLECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION</b>  Personal information collected on this form is collected under the authority of the <i>Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25</i> and may also be used for purposes related to the Issuance of Proclamations Policy and Proclamation Request Form. Questions about this collection should be addressed to the City Clerk, 3rd floor, City Hall, 300 Dufferin Ave., London, ON N6A 4L9. Tel: 519-661-2489, ext. 4937, email: <a href="mailto:csaunder@london.ca">csaunder@london.ca</a>				



Little People of Ontario (Head Office)  
108 Rosedale Heights Drive  
Toronto, ON  
M4T 1C6

[info@lpo.on.ca](mailto:info@lpo.on.ca)

[www.lpo.on.ca](http://www.lpo.on.ca)

Registered Charity Number: 88927 8974 RR0001

Office of Mayor Ed Holder  
300 Dufferin Ave.  
London, ON  
N6A 4L9

August 28, 2020

Re: Proclamation declaring October as Dwarfism Awareness Month in London.

Dear Mr. Mayor Holder,

Started in 1965, and operated entirely by volunteers, the Little People of Ontario (LPO) is a provincial, registered charitable organization that provides life-long fellowship, support and information to people with dwarfism, their families and friends in Ontario. Through peer support and personal example our members are supportive of all those who reach out to LPO by providing medical, environmental, educational, vocational, and parental guidance.

The Little People of Ontario and the Little People of Canada recognize October as Dwarfism Awareness and Acceptance Month and October 25 as Dwarfism Awareness Day.

In 2019, the Cities of Toronto, Ottawa and Windsor as well as the town of Milton were the first to officially recognize October as Dwarfism Awareness and Acceptance Month in Canada. In the Toronto riding of Toronto-St. Paul's Ward 12, it was acknowledged by all three levels of government across party lines in video submissions showing the support and need to increase public knowledge to diminish stereotypes and negative misconceptions about people with dwarfism.

We would like your office and the City of London to also make an official proclamation declaring October as Dwarfism Awareness and Acceptance Month for 2020.

The Little People of America (LPA) celebrates October as Dwarfism Awareness Month nationally and it has been officially passed into law by over 20 States in the USA.

While as a community we don't like to think of short stature itself as a disability, the medical complications of dwarfism can be quite extensive and disabling. There are over 350 different types of dwarfism each having their own set of physical, psychological and social challenges.



In an interview in 2012 with the New York Times Magazine, Golden Globe winning actor Peter Dinklage was quoted saying, "Dwarfs are still the butt of jokes. It's one of the last bastions of acceptable prejudice." This prejudice should not be acceptable.

Even as recently as 2019, UK comedian Jimmy Carr as part of his show asked the audience if people with dwarfism were simply abortions that lived. While it may have been said in jest, the perpetuation of these ideas and images continues to deprecate and marginalize not only the Little People community but all those who identify as having a disability.

A proclamation declaring October as Dwarfism Awareness and Acceptance Month by the City of London this year would continue to help local initiatives by charitable and not-for-profit organizations like LPO, overcome those challenges and remediate the prejudice.

LPO is dedicated to raising awareness and educating the general public about dwarfism, showing them that little people are unique, capable and incredible in every way.

Looking forward to your incredible support with this proclamation and would very much appreciate your help spreading the word to increase Dwarfism Awareness and Acceptance.

In the meantime if you have any questions please let me know.

Be well,

Eric McArthur  
LPO Family Ambassador, London Chapter  
Little People of Ontario  
130 Ross Avenue  
Dorchester, ON  
N0L 1G1

Tel: 647-849-9844

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Operated by Volunteers, Little People of Ontario is a Registered Charity.  
Please consider a financial donation directly at: [lpo.on.ca/donate](http://lpo.on.ca/donate)  
or through CanadaHelps: [lpo.on.ca/CanadaHelpsLPO](http://lpo.on.ca/CanadaHelpsLPO)  
or through PayPal: [lpo.on.ca/PayPalDonation](http://lpo.on.ca/PayPalDonation)

Enc. Appendix A: Proposed Dwarfism Awareness and Acceptance Proclamation.



## Appendix A: Proposed Dwarfism Awareness and Acceptance Proclamation.

### DWARFISM AWARENESS AND ACCEPTANCE MONTH

#### October 2020

**WHEREAS**, October is Dwarfism Awareness and Acceptance Month around the world and is dedicated to raising awareness, increasing public knowledge, and diminishing stereotypes and negative misconceptions about dwarfism; and

**WHEREAS**, there are over 350 different types of dwarfism, each with its own set of physical, psychological and social challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, many of the barriers and obstacles faced by individuals with dwarfism are put in place by society, even before any potential medical complications of dwarfism are considered; and

**WHEREAS**, there are many offensive and inappropriate names for individuals with dwarfism used by society, but people with dwarfism prefer to be called by their name, or by terms such as 'short statured individual', or 'little person';

**THEREFORE**, I, Mayor Ed Holder, for the City of London, Ontario do hereby proclaim **October 2020 Dwarfism Awareness and Acceptance Month** to promote inclusion and equity for persons with dwarfism in London.

Dated at London this 1<sup>st</sup> day of October 2020.





## Issuance of Proclamations Policy

**Policy Name:** Issuance of Proclamations Policy

**Legislative History:** Adopted September 19, 2017 (By-law No. CPOL.-115-367);  
Amended July 24, 2018 (By-law No. CPOL.-115(a)-418)

**Last Review Date:** January 6, 2020

**Service Area Lead:** City Clerk

### 1. Policy Statement

1.1 This policy sets out the requirements for the issuance of proclamations.

### 2. Definitions

2.1 Not applicable.

### 3. Applicability

3.1 This policy shall apply to any request for the issuance of proclamations on behalf of the City of London.

### 4. The Policy

4.1. Proclamations are ceremonial documents issued and signed by the Mayor on behalf of City of London Council that officially recognizes public awareness campaigns; charitable fundraising campaigns; and arts and cultural celebrations of organizations that reside/operate within the City of London. The requester must clearly identify the significance and connection of the proclamation to the mandate and goals as set out in the City of London's Strategic Plan. A proclamation does not constitute a personal or civic endorsement.

#### Application Process

- a) Proclamations requests are to be submitted on the City of London Application form to the City Clerk's Office at least six (6) weeks in advance of the requested issuance date.
- b) The Application must provide sufficient background information about the organization, cause or event being proclaimed and the proposed text for inclusion in the proclamation. The proposed text is subject to approval by the City of London to ensure compliance with City of London's policies and by-laws.
- c) Upon receipt of the Application, the City Clerk's Office will review the Application in accordance with this Policy and if the Application appears to be in compliance with the Policy, the Application will be placed on the next available Corporate Services Committee meeting for consideration.
- d) The Corporate Services Committee will review the Application and provide a recommendation to the Municipal Council for consideration with respect to the disposition of the Applications.

## SCHEDULE "A"

### Administration of Policy:

- e) The cause or event must contribute to the economic, social and cultural fabric of the City of London.
- f) Repeat requests must be submitted on an annual basis.
- g) An organization may request one proclamation per calendar year.
- h) Organization do not have exclusive rights to the day, week, or month being proclaimed.
- i) Proclamations of a similar topic will be issued on a first come first served basis.
- j) The City of London will not incur any expenses relating to the advertising or promotion of a proclamation. Recipients are responsible for the promotion of the proclamation, organization of related activities and for all associated costs.
- k) Proclamations will not be issued for:
  - Matters of political controversy, ideological or religious beliefs or individual conviction.
  - Events or organizations with no direct connection to the City of London.
  - Campaigns or events contrary to City of London policies or by-laws.
  - National, Independence or Republic Days.
  - Campaign or events intended for profit-making purposes.
  - Recognition of individuals.
  - Recognition of events or organizations that espouse discrimination, hatred, violence or racism.
  - Matters attempting to influence government policy.
  - Matters designed to incite hatred or disorder.
- l) The City of London reserves the right to refuse to issue a proclamation.