

## Report to Corporate Services Committee

**To:** Chair and Members  
Corporate Services Committee  
**From:** Cathy Saunders, City Clerk  
**Subject:** Application – Issuance of Proclamation – World Press  
Freedom Day 2021  
**Date:** March 29, 2021

## 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 March 17, 2021 from ink-stainedwretches.org requesting May 3, 2021 be proclaimed World Press Freedom Day 2021.

**Submitted by:** Cathy Saunders, City Clerk

**Proclamation Request Form**

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**

Name of Organization:	ink-stainedwretches.org
Date Proclamation Required:	May 3, 2021
Proclamation Name:	World Press Freedom Day 2021
Proclamation Type (day, week or month):	day
Category (public awareness campaigns), (charitable fundraising campaigns), (arts and cultural celebrations):	public awareness campaign
Requester Name :	Romayne Smith Fullerton
Requester Telephone Number:	
Requester Email Address:	
Requester Address:	Katharine Crescent, Port Franks N0M 2L0
Provide details of your Organization's Connection to London:	Requester is a faculty member at Western, and member of ink-stainedwretches.org
Required Supporting Documents	<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	
Signature	Romayne Smith Fullerton
Date	March 17, 2021
NOTICE OF COLLECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION	
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>	

## Appendix “A”

### Background of organization

[ink-stainedwretches.org](http://ink-stainedwretches.org) is a group formed in March 2020 by former newsroom workers at the Waterloo Region Record newspaper. Long concerned with the decline in robust local journalism in their municipality and across Canada, the group launched a campaign to encourage elected leaders to build an ecosystem in which public-service journalism can survive and thrive. Toward that goal, the group has been asking municipal councils to voice support for local journalism and to encourage MPs to quickly implement legislation to build the ecosystem. At the time of submitting this proclamation request, 16 municipalities in two provinces — representing roughly 4.5 million residents — have passed versions of the resolution proposed by ink-stainedwretches.org. Municipalities include Waterloo Region, Windsor, Hamilton, Kinston, Tofino (BC) and Toronto.

### UN World Press Freedom Day

The description below is from the [UN World Press Freedom Day 2021](https://www.un.org/en/press/docs/2021/210520210501.shtml) website:

This year’s World Press Freedom Day theme “**Information as a Public Good**” serves as a call to affirm the importance of cherishing information as a public good, and exploring what can be done in the production, distribution and reception of content to strengthen journalism, and to advance transparency and empowerment while leaving no one behind. The theme is of urgent relevance to all countries across the world. It recognizes the changing communications system that is impacting on our health, our human rights, democracies and sustainable development. To underline the importance of information within this new ecosystem, WPF 2021 will highlight three key topics:

- Steps to ensure the economic viability of news media;
- Mechanisms for ensuring transparency of Internet companies;
- Enhanced Media and Information Literacy (MIL) capacities that enable people to recognize and value, as well as defend and demand, journalism as a vital part of information as a public good.

### Proposed text for proclamation

“Good governance” is the first value expressed among several values listed in London’s [Strategic Plan 2019-2023](#). (p.5)

Adequate public scrutiny of local government and its agencies is essential for good governance and democracy — and local news media provide scrutiny on behalf of the public.

Proclaiming May 3, 2021, in London to be United Nations World Press Freedom Day expresses London council’s support for the concept and practise of public scrutiny in the service of all London residents.

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## **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.