



Office of the Mayor  
**CITY OF VANCOUVER**  
BRITISH COLUMBIA


## Proclamation

### "WORLD HEPATITIS AWARENESS DAY"

- WHEREAS** It is estimated that between 400,000 and 600,000 people in Canada are living with hepatitis B and C, and are at risk for developing cirrhosis, liver failure, liver cancer and non-liver related manifestations;
- AND WHEREAS** At least 60,000 people are affected with hepatitis B and 70,000 with hepatitis C in British Columbia, of whom at least 19,000 with hepatitis B and 16,500 with hepatitis C reside in Vancouver, as estimated by the BC Centre for Disease Control, but a significant number of infections have yet to be identified;
- AND WHEREAS** British Columbia is reported to have some of the highest hepatitis B and hepatitis C infection rates in Canada;
- AND WHEREAS** Hepatitis B and hepatitis C are slowly progressive illnesses which may take up to 30 years to damage the liver;
- AND WHEREAS** An effective vaccine is available to prevent hepatitis B and treatments can control the infection; most hepatitis B infections have been acquired in endemic countries and hence a significant number of immigrants to British Columbia are affected;
- AND WHEREAS** No vaccine is available to prevent hepatitis C but harm reduction strategies can help prevent new infections; and treatment curability will soon approach 95%, so being tested for hepatitis C is important;
- AND WHEREAS** World Hepatitis Awareness Day is an ideal opportunity to enhance public awareness and education, reduce stigma, foster tolerance and understanding, acknowledge those affected, and explore ways to better address hepatitis B and C in the future;
- NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Gregor Robertson, Mayor of the City of Vancouver, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 as

### "WORLD HEPATITIS AWARENESS DAY"

in the City of Vancouver.

  
Gregor Robertson  
MAYOR

