



**Proclamation
World Hepatitis Day - July 28, 2015**

- WHEREAS:** an estimated 1500 people in Nanaimo are infected with hepatitis C and an estimated 80,000 British Columbians are also infected; and
- WHEREAS:** it is estimated that approximately 60,000 to 80,000 people in BC are affected by hepatitis B and the numbers are very similar (if not greater for hepatitis C); and
- WHEREAS:** it is estimated that over 500 million people are living with chronic hepatitis B and C worldwide. Hepatitis viruses can cause inflammation of the liver; chronic viral hepatitis infection can lead to cirrhosis and/or liver cancer; and
- WHEREAS:** many of those living with either hepatitis B and hepatitis C are currently unaware of their illness, as both can be asymptomatic for decades after initial infection; and
- WHEREAS:** early detection and awareness can reduce harm to those already infected by hepatitis C; and
- WHEREAS:** most cases of hepatitis C can now be cured and hepatitis B can be prevented by immunization; and
- WHEREAS:** Community-based organizations, such as HepCBC Hepatitis C Education and Prevention Society, health professionals and government partners in Nanaimo and BC continue to work on preventing new infections and ensuring that support for those affected by viral hepatitis is accessible; and
- WHEREAS:** the World Hepatitis Alliance has declared July 28 World Hepatitis Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Mayor of Nanaimo, Bill McKay, do hereby declare July 28, 2015 as "World Hepatitis Day" in the City of Nanaimo, and urge all citizens to take part in activities and observances designed to increase awareness and understanding of the hepatitis viruses as a global challenge, to take part in prevention activities and programs, and to join the global effort to prevent the further spread of hepatitis.

Mayor Bill McKay
City of Nanaimo
DATED THIS 24TH DAY OF JUNE, 2015.

