



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS Kawasaki disease is the leading cause of acquired heart disease in children. Early diagnosis is a matter of life or death and / or lifelong coronary distress, disease. The window for diagnosis is a mere 10 days. When undiagnosed and untreated, this disease leads to long-term complications, coronary artery aneurysms that may ultimately result in heart attacks, congestive heart failure or sudden death.

WHEREAS Approximately 550 Canadian children under age 5 will be affected by Kawasaki disease annually and approximately 25% of these children will develop permanent heart damage. The sense of urgency is real. Incidences of Kawasaki disease in Canada are on the rise. Treatment within the first 10 days of onset of fever can dramatically reduce the number with heart problems to less than 5%. That is over 100 children's hearts saved every year. Early detection is critical. Increased awareness of early symptoms is imperative to diagnosis and effective treatment.

WHEREAS Kawasaki Disease Canada is the only Canadian national charity working to improve outcomes of Kawasaki disease and at the forefront of Kawasaki disease issues by collaborating with families affected. January 26 is the anniversary of the day in 1961 that Dr. Tomisaku Kawasaki began to recognize a cluster of symptoms that led to the classification of "Kawasaki disease". It has been more than 50 years since then and the cause of the disease is still unknown. Increased awareness is imperative. Kawasaki Disease Canada supports international partners in the quest to increase awareness and is pursuing this proclamation across Canada.

NOW THEREFORE

I, Ken Johnston, Mayor of The City of Red Deer, hereby proclaim January 26, 2025 as the "Kawasaki Disease Awareness Day" in Red Deer. We want Kawasaki disease to be top of mind for all Canadians. We want to increase awareness and save children's hearts and lives from the effects of Kawasaki disease.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the Official Seal of The City of Red Deer to be affixed.

Mayor Ken Johnston
City of Red Deer

