

Proclamation

WORLD LYMPHEDEMA DAY
6 March 2019

WHEREAS, lymphedema is a disease afflicting more than 300 million people worldwide (World Health Organization) with disfigurement, disabilities, discomfort, pain, and distress; and

WHEREAS, approximately 1,000,000 Canadians are living and suffering with **lymphedema**, whether: **primary** - inherited, present at birth or manifesting itself later in life, from genetic defects; or, **secondary** - developed from bodily trauma such as cancer treatment, radiation therapy, major surgery, severe burns or other injuries; and

WHEREAS, lymphedema is an accumulation of high-protein lymphatic fluid that causes swelling in the legs, arms, genitals, trunk, head and/or neck, which impairs mobility, function, can cause pain, significantly impact quality of life, and lead to severe infection or the loss of use of limbs, for the affected person, regardless of age or gender; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no cure for **lymphedema**; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the severe physical, emotional, psychosocial, and financial impacts and consequences **lymphedema** has on patients and families, it is time to support the courageous individuals living with this debilitating disease as well as their caregivers, both professionals and lay persons; and

WHEREAS, 2019 marks the fourth annual year, where **World Lymphedema Day** is observed and recognized throughout Canada and the world to increase public attention, awareness and action related to this serious, chronic and progressive disease;

THEREFORE, I, Danny Breen, Mayor of St. John's, do hereby proclaim **6 March 2019, World Lymphedema Day** in St. John's.



Danny Breen, Mayor

ST. JOHN'S