

May 3, 2024

Mr. Ed Ketchabaw, Warden  
County of Elgin  
450 Sunset Drive  
St. Thomas, ON N5R 5V1

Dear Warden Ketchabaw,

Re: September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

Childhood Cancer is the number one cause of death by disease of Canadian children.<sup>i</sup>  
The latest data shows that incidence rate of childhood cancer in Ontario is increasing by approximately 1% per year (1986-2018)<sup>ii</sup>.

We first want to thank Elgin County council for the ongoing support of childhood cancer awareness activities. On behalf of Childcan, we are writing to ask you to proclaim September 2024 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month (CCAM) in Elgin County and we enclose a draft proclamation for your review. We are also wondering if it is possible to again have a flag raising at the Elgin County Heritage Centre during CCAM to highlight this important awareness campaign.

Faced with the news that their child has cancer, families from across western Ontario have turned to Childcan for direct support since 1974. Financial assistance, emotional support, social programs, research funding – it's all supported solely by donors who get involved because they know that childhood cancer is an experience that nobody thinks they will face, let alone one that families can prepare for.

We were one of those unprepared families when in March 2014, our daughter Maggie was diagnosed with a rogue cell tumour. Other families in our area are struggling with this reality in their own children. Sadly, Maggie passed away shortly after her cancer was discovered.

Childcan's vision is to make childhood cancer a health priority, fund innovative research, and expand family supports until childhood cancer is eliminated.

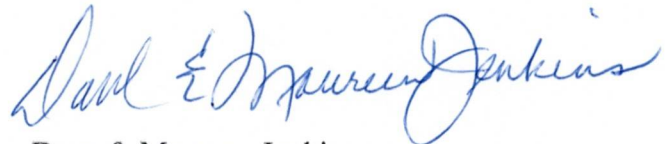
We strongly believe in Childcan's vision. You can help us achieve our vision and stem the increasing incidence rates by proclaiming September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. By recognizing this month, you will show support for those affected, remember those who have passed, and bring hope for a future where childhood cancer is no longer the number one cause of death by disease for Canadian children.

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If you have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to reach out to me, or Sarah Dimitropoulos from Childcan, [sarah@childcan.com](mailto:sarah@childcan.com) or 519-685-3500.

We appreciate your support and your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Dave & Maureen Jenkins

Attach: CCAM Proclamation  
CCAM Poster

Email: [warden@elgin.ca](mailto:warden@elgin.ca)  
[jfentie@elgin.ca](mailto:jfentie@elgin.ca)

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.childhoodcancer.ca/Your-Impact/Childhood-Cancer-Statistics-Resources>

<sup>ii</sup> Incidence rate statistic provided by Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario. Childhood Cancer in Ontario: The 2020 POGO Surveillance Report. Toronto: Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario; 2020.