



Office of the Mayor  
CITY OF VANCOUVER  
BRITISH COLUMBIA


## Proclamation

### "WORLD HEPATITIS AWARENESS DAY"

- WHEREAS *It is estimated that between 500,000 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 infected with hepatitis B and 60,000 with hepatitis C in British Columbia, of whom at least 15,500 with hepatitis B and 14,500 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 are rapidly improving; 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 while treatments are rapidly improving, most people with hepatitis C remain infected;*
- 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 Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009 as

"WORLD HEPATITIS AWARENESS DAY"

in the City of Vancouver.

  
Gregor Robertson  
MAYOR

