



## ***Proclamation***

### **Sickle Cell Awareness Day**

June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024

WHEREAS, sickle cell disease is characterized by a mutation in the shape of red blood cells from a smooth, circular shape to a crescent shape, which can result in the blockage of small blood vessels and the impairment of blood flow, leading to a reduction in red blood cell survival and subsequent anemia; and

WHEREAS, the poor blood oxygen levels and blood vessel blockages that result from sickle cell disease can lead to severe chronic pain, serious bacterial infections and tissue death. Blood vessel blockages can affect all parts of the body and result in organs becoming starved for oxygen and unable to function properly. The lifespan of persons with severe sickle cell disease can be reduced by as much as 30 years; and

WHEREAS, approximately five percent of the world's population carries the trait gene for sickle cell disease, with the percentage of carriers of the gene being as high as 25% in some regions. Sickle cell disease is particularly common among people whose ancestors come from India, Saudi Arabia and Mediterranean and sub-Saharan African countries; and

WHEREAS, it is important to raise awareness of sickle cell disease, including the need for uniform screening of newborns and improved diagnosis and treatment of the disease; and

WHEREAS, June 19<sup>th</sup> is recognized annually by organizations such as the African Union, the World Health Organization and the United Nations, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as World Sickle Cell Day in order to promote awareness of the disease around the world.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, Mayor Mike Savage, on behalf of Halifax Regional Council, do hereby proclaim June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024, **Sickle Cell Awareness Day** in Halifax Regional Municipality, Nova Scotia.

Dated at Halifax, Nova Scotia  
this 19<sup>th</sup> day of June 2024



Mike Savage  
Mayor