



Town of Pelham
20 Pelham Town Square,
P.O. Box 400,
Fonthill, ON L0S 1E0

Dear Mayor Junkin and Council,

Save Your Skin Foundation would like to commend your efforts in disseminating awareness and prevention information regarding sun safety and skin cancers through your proclamation of May 2021 as Melanoma and Skin Cancer Awareness Month in the Town of Pelham.

Over-exposure to UV radiation is one of the major causes of melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers. Though skin cancers should be largely preventable, their diagnosis rates are increasing. In 2020, over 80,000 Canadians were diagnosed with skin cancer. Last year, over 1,300 lost their lives to melanoma.¹ While most forms of non-melanoma skin cancer can be surgically removed, melanoma is an aggressive form of cancer. The five-year relative survival rate of melanoma that has metastasized is 18% and 88% for melanoma that does not spread. Despite these figures, many people seek sun without taking the advisable precautionary measures, or believe that only severe burns contribute to one's risk of skin cancer. In fact, any darkening of skin colour, including a tan, is indicative of UV damage.

By proclaiming May as Melanoma Awareness Month, you are increasing the likelihood that your citizens will take precautionary measures against UV damage, or conduct their own research into how to prevent skin cancer, both of which contribute towards the reduction of skin cancer diagnoses. We hope you will consider reissuing this proclamation in May 2022, and in years to come, to continue fighting against melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers.

Best,

Kathleen Barnard, Founder and President
Save Your Skin Foundation

¹ Canadian Cancer Society. *Cancer-specific stats 2020: Snapshot of incidence, mortality and survival estimates by cancer type*. Available at: https://www.cancer.ca/~media/cancer.ca/CW/cancer%20information/cancer%20101/Canadian%20cancer%20statistics%20supplementary%20information/2020/2020_cancer-specific-stats.pdf?la=en