



P R O C L A M A T I O N

CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER

WORLD POLIO DAY
October 24, 2024

- WHEREAS** World Polio Day is celebrated around the globe on October 24th. The day was established by Rotary International over a decade ago to commemorate the birth of Jonas Salk, who in 1955 led a team of scientists to develop the first vaccine against poliomyelitis; and
- WHEREAS** In 1979 Rotary International launched PolioPlus in the Philippines with a goal of vaccinating 6 million children, and in 1985 Rotary spearheaded the Global Polio Eradication Initiative with the World Health Organization, US Centers for Disease Control, UNICEF and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, that has immunized over 3 billion children to date, in 122 countries; and
- WHEREAS** Rotarians worldwide have contributed over \$2.6 billion and countless volunteer hours to the polio eradication program, and their advocacy resulted in governments contributing over \$10 billion to the program; and
- WHEREAS** Annual polio cases caused by the wild polio virus globally have dropped by 99.9% from 350,000 in 1988 to only 14 in 2024 to the end of June, found in conflict areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan, preventing death or paralysis in an estimated 20 million children, and the world stands on the threshold of eradicating this disease forever; and
- WHEREAS** The recent resurgence of the polio virus in Gaza and Pakistan demonstrates the need for constant surveillance and vigilance, and monitoring of virus-free communities, and immediate responses to outbreaks by vaccination of children, and
- WHEREAS** There are 49 Rotary Clubs with over 1,300 members in Rotary District 5040 (BC) and in the City of New Westminster there are two Rotary Clubs with over 65 members, a Rotaract Club (for young adults) and an Interact Club (for students at New Westminster Secondary School). All members are committed to the eradication of polio and sponsoring service projects to address such critical issues as poverty, health, hunger, literacy and the environment in our local communities and abroad.
- NOW THEREFORE** I, Patrick Johnstone, Mayor of the City of New Westminster do hereby proclaim October 24, 2024 as

World Polio Day

In the City of New Westminster, Province of British Columbia.


Patrick Johnstone
MAYOR

