



CITY OF KINGSTON

Proclamation

Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Month May 2026

Whereas multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS) is a recognized disability in Canada that can substantially limit major life activities, including breathing, mobility, access to housing, employment, healthcare, education, and public services; and

Whereas the Canadian Human Rights Commission recognizes environmental sensitivities, including multiple chemical sensitivity, as a disability and affirms that scent-free environments and the use of lowest-VOC-emission, least-toxic products constitute required accommodations to ensure equality and non-discrimination; and

Whereas the American Medical Association has adopted policy recognizing fragrance sensitivity including multiple chemical sensitivity as a condition that may limit major life activity, and has endorsed fragrance-free policies, ingredient transparency, research, and clinical awareness as necessary measures to reduce harm and improve access in healthcare and public settings; and

Whereas people living with multiple chemical sensitivity may experience serious and disabling health effects when exposed to fragranced products, cleaning agents, pesticides, building materials, and other chemical emissions commonly present in public and private environments; and

Whereas Canada is a State Party to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and has been directed by the UN Committee to eliminate discrimination against persons with multiple chemical sensitivity and ensure full equality and inclusion across all levels of government; and

Whereas the Accessible Canada Act (2019) establishes a proactive duty to identify, remove, and prevent barriers to accessibility for all persons with disabilities, including through inclusive public environments and services at all levels of government; and

Whereas Statistics Canada data indicate that more than 1.13 million Canadians have been diagnosed with multiple chemical sensitivity, confirming its prevalence and public-health significance; and

Whereas May is recognized internationally as Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Month, and May 12 as Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Day, dedicated to advancing understanding of MCS as a disability and the need for accessible, fragrance-free, and lowest VOC-emission environments.

Therefore, I, Mayor Bryan Paterson, on behalf of Kingston City Council, hereby proclaim the month of May, 2026 as "Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Month" in the City of Kingston.

Dated at Kingston this 11th day of March, 2026.

Bryan Paterson
Mayor

