



At its March 4, 2024 Regular Council Meeting the Town of Essex approved the following proclamation:

## **Proclamation**

World Tuberculosis (TB) Day

March 24, 2024

**WHEREAS**, Tuberculosis ("TB") is a disease caused by bacteria called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, which can lead to either TB infection or active TB disease. Active TB disease occurs when bacteria multiply, causing damage to the lungs or other parts of the body, such as the brain, lymph nodes, or kidneys. People with active TB disease may pass the bacteria to others by coughing, speaking, or saliva, and the TB bacteria enters the body through the air you breathe. People with TB infection do not have symptoms and cannot spread the bacteria to others but are at risk of developing active TB disease later in life. Without proper treatment, TB infection can turn into active TB disease and cause severe illness or even death;

**WHEREAS**, common symptoms of TB include coughing that lasts three or more weeks, chest pain or pain with breathing or coughing, loss of appetite, chills, unintentional weight loss, fatigue, night sweats, fever, and coughing up blood. TB can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, or race but some people are at greater risk such as those in close contact with a person with infectious TB, those who have lived, worked, or travelled in areas of the world with high rates of TB, children under five years old, and people who work or live in places like hospitals, shelters, prisons, or long-term care facilities. Certain factors can increase the risk of developing active TB disease, including HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, diabetes, chronic kidney disease, cigarette smoking and treatment with medications such as corticosteroids or biologic anti-inflammatory drugs;

**WHEREAS**, 10 million people around the world become sick from TB and 1.5 million people die every year, making TB one of the top ten causes of death worldwide. In 2023, 13 active TB disease cases and 294 TB infection cases were reported in Windsor-Essex County;

**WHEREAS**, TB is preventable and curable. TB medication is available free of charge from the Health Unit with a prescription from a health care provider;

**WHEREAS**, World Tuberculosis Day is observed each year on March 24th to celebrate the date in 1882 that Dr. Robert Koch announced his discovery of the bacteria that causes tuberculosis. His discovery paved way for future work in diagnosing and curing TB; and

**WHEREAS**, this March, the City of Windsor joins the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit in raising awareness of TB, the importance of recognizing the signs and symptoms, the risks of developing active TB disease and the treatment of TB infection and active TB disease;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, I, Sherry Bondy, Mayor of the Town of Essex, do hereby proclaim March 24, 2024 as World Tuberculosis Day in the Town of Essex.

Sherry Bondy,  
Mayor of the Town of Essex

