



Proclamation
Usher Syndrome Awareness Day
September 20, 2025

WHEREAS Usher Syndrome is a rare genetic disorder caused by mutations in at least 11 genes, resulting in a combination of hearing loss and visual impairment, and is a leading cause of combined deafness and blindness; and

WHEREAS more than 400,000 people worldwide are affected by Usher Syndrome, including at least 2,400 Canadians; and

WHEREAS Usher Syndrome impacts three major senses - vision, hearing, and balance - with progressive vision loss due to retinitis pigmentosa, congenital or early-onset hearing loss, and severe balance issues caused by vestibular dysfunction; and

WHEREAS there are three clinical types distinguished by severity and age of onset, and at least eleven genetic types identifiable only through DNA testing; and

WHEREAS limited public awareness of Usher Syndrome contributes to challenges such as depression, anxiety, isolation, and loss of independence for those affected; and

WHEREAS the global Usher Syndrome community is united in raising awareness and recognizing the 3rd Saturday of September annually as Usher Syndrome Awareness Day.

THEREFORE, I, the Honourable Mark McLane, Minister of Health and Wellness, do hereby recognize the 20th day of September 2025 as Usher Syndrome Awareness Day in the Province of Prince Edward Island.

Signed in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island on the 21st day of August 2025.


Hon. Mark McLane, Minister of Health and Wellness, Prince Edward Island