



The City of Saint John

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS:** Usher Syndrome is a relatively rare genetic disorder caused by a mutation in any one of 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 are affected by this genetic disorder worldwide, with at least 2,400 of those in Canada; and
- WHEREAS:** Usher syndrome, which is incurable presently, impacts three major senses in the body: Vision, Hearing, and Balance
- WHEREAS:** There are three clinical types: Type 1, Type 2 and Type 3, which are distinguished by the severity and age when the signs and symptoms appear. There are at least eleven different genetic types of Usher syndrome. One cannot determine the genetic type by clinical testing, as DNA testing is the only reliable way of determining the true genetic type; and
- WHEREAS:** Because of limited public awareness, those affected with Usher syndrome may suffer from depression, anxiety, isolation, and loss of independence. The Usher syndrome community is uniting around the world to spread public awareness but especially to be recognized annually, the 3rd Saturday of September.

NOW THEREFORE: I, ***Mayor Donna Noade Reardon***, of ***Saint John*** do hereby proclaim September 20, 2025 as Usher Syndrome Awareness Day in the City of Saint John.

In witness whereof I have set my hand and affixed the official seal of the Mayor of the City of Saint John.

