

11/02/2019

Dear City of Saint John :

I, Marthe Gautreau, New Brunswick Resource Centre Director, am pleased to invite you to participate in our Huntington Disease (HD) awareness campaign in May 2019. This campaign is about **increasing awareness** of Huntington disease across Canada. The better we understand the disease the more we can support those who are affected. Every year, in Canada, the month of May is designated as Huntington Disease Awareness Month.

**What is Huntington disease?**

Huntington disease is an inherited brain disorder. HD causes cells in parts of the brain to die: specifically the caudate, the putamen and, as the disease progresses, the cerebral cortex. As the brain cells die, a person with Huntington becomes less able to control movements, recall events, make decisions and control emotions. The disease leads to incapacitation and, eventually, death.

**What is the Huntington Society of Canada?**

The Huntington Society of Canada (HSC) is a not-for-profit charitable organization, which raises funds to deliver individual and group counselling service to support individuals and families living with Huntington disease (HD) and to fund medical research to delay or stop the progression of the disease. HSC also works with health and social services professionals to enable them to better serve people living with HD. Our national office is located in Kitchener, Ontario, we have offices providing service in every province and territory as well as over 40 volunteer chapters across Canada.

You can participate by lighting up a well-known site in your region for example a building, a wharf, a bridge or a park with blue and purple lights. Blue lights are for adults affected with Huntington Disease and purple lights are for Juvenile Huntington Disease. In May 2017, the City of Fredericton participated by lighting up City Hall. The City of Moncton participated in May 2018 by lighting up Downing Street for two weeks during the month of May. We hope to have more sites participate in N. B. this year. To watch a video featuring last year's sites, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3YsFS-r0rrI>. We will be featuring N.B sites in the May 2019 video. This is a great opportunity to highlight our beautiful province, not only to the rest of Canada, but globally as well!

Please be sure to let us know if you can support this campaign as we want to make sure we include pictures of your site and of course inform our HD Community. These families need, and appreciate your support in raising awareness!

Thank you,

*Marthe Gautreau, RSW/TSI*

New Brunswick Resource Centre Director/Directrice Centre de ressources du N.-B.

Huntington Society of Canada / Société Huntington du Canada

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