



# GBS/CIDP Foundation of Canada

Guillain-Barré Syndrome/Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy  
*Support, Education, Research, Advocacy*

## Honorary Board

Larry Brenneman (*deceased*)  
Tom Feasby, MD  
Susan Keast  
Serge Payer  
Kenneth Shonk, MD

## Executive Director

Donna Hartlen

## Officers

Darryl Bedford  
*President*  
Howard Huss  
*Treasurer*

## Board of Directors

Darryl Bedford  
Holly Gerlach  
Alexandre Grant  
Howard Huss  
Dean Lower  
Pamela Stoikopoulos  
Demetrios Strongolos  
Ron Van Holst

## Medical Advisory Board

Steven Baker, MD  
Brenda Banwell, MD  
Timothy Benstead, MD  
Pierre Bourque, MD  
Vera Bril, MD  
Colin Chalk, MD  
Kristine Chapman, MD  
Angela Genge, MD  
Gillian Gibson, MD  
Angelika Hahn, MD  
Hans Katzberg, MD  
Kurt Kimpinski, MD  
Rami Massie, MD  
Elizabeth Pringle, MD  
Zaeem Siddiqi, MD  
Jiri Vajsar, MD  
Chris White, MD  
Douglas Zochodne, MD

March 1, 2022

Office of the Mayor  
225 East Beaver Creek Rd  
Richmond Hill, ON  
L4B 3P4

Dear Mayor David West:

We are writing to respectfully request that the city of Richmond Hill proclaim May 2022 as GBS/CIDP Awareness Month. The Month of May, has been internationally designated as "GBS and CIDP Awareness Month" to educate the public and to focus attention on these rare conditions. The GBS/CIDP Foundation of Canada is a national, not for profit patient organization that supports patients and families afflicted with Guillain-Barré Syndrome, Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy, and variants such as Multifocal Motor Neuropathy. We serve patients through support, education, research and advocacy.

GBS has a sudden onset of symptoms, which can cause complete paralysis within a day. Recovery can be unpredictable, patients and their families face an uncertain future, usually requiring months of hospital care without knowing if or when they will recover, or whether they will face long-term disabilities. Earlier diagnosis, treatment, and access to rehabilitation services can improve the chances of avoiding permanent lifelong residual damage of the nerves. The cause of these conditions is unknown, and can develop in any person, regardless of age, gender or ethnic background

We are working to raise awareness of these rare conditions so that future patients get help sooner and will know that our organization is here to provide hope. We provide support and information through trained volunteers, our website, materials provided to hospitals, and organize local and online peer-to-peer support group meetings. We provide patient educational events and build awareness within the medical community. We advocate for access to diagnosis and appropriate treatment, and also support Canadian research that aims to improve the quality of life of GBS, CIDP, and MMN patients.

While considered rare diseases, in Canada GBS affects 2 in 100,000, and in Zika outbreaks 9-24 in 100,000. CIDP affects 5-7 in 100,000. For more information: [www.gbscidp.ca](http://www.gbscidp.ca)  
Please let us know if there is anything further you require for our proclamation request to be approved for this year and for subsequent years.

Please see the attached email or application from Ines Jordao. Ines is a member of your community and has gone through the GBS journey with his son.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kim Brooks  
Patient Advocate & Volunteer Coordinator  
[kbrooks@gbscidp.ca](mailto:kbrooks@gbscidp.ca)  
1-403-510-3170  
[www.gbscidp.ca](http://www.gbscidp.ca)

Canadian charity registration number: 887327906RR0001

3100 Garden Street, PO Box 80060 RPO Rossland Garden, Whitby, Ontario, L1R 0H1

PH:1-647-560-6842 [gbscidp.ca](http://gbscidp.ca)