

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## March 6 is World Lymphedema Day in Parksville

Mayor Ed Mayne has proclaimed March 6 as "World Lymphedema Day" in the City of Parksville. This day provides an opportunity to raise awareness to this distressing disease and to promote hopeful and healthy living through education, advocacy and support of all people living with lymphedema.

Lymphedema is an accumulation of lymphatic fluid that causes swelling in the arms, legs and other areas of the body. It is a debilitating, chronic disease that negatively affects daily living, career, quality of life, mental health and creates an enormous financial burden on patients and the healthcare system. It can be hereditary, acquired as a result of cancer treatment, physical trauma or surgery and affects both children and adults. It is estimated to affect about 130,000 people in British Columbia.

The BC Lymphedema Association is an organization that delivers education support and advocacy to those suffering with lymphedema. The BCLA also supports the desperate need to raise awareness throughout our communities for timely diagnosis and management so people no longer go untreated due to lack of knowledge.

More information about the BC Lymphedema Association is available at www.bclymph.org.

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## For more information:

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