

From: Woojin Lim [mailto:woojin051599@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, July 24, 2017 3:42 PM
To: MayorCouncil <mayorcouncil@tol.ca>
Subject: Innocence Canada Proclamation - Township of Langley

Good Morning,

My name is Woojin Lim and I am emailing you on behalf of Innocence Canada (formerly the Association in Defence of the Wrongly Convicted) to ask if the city of Surrey would proclaim October 2nd, 2017 as Wrongful Conviction Day.

We hope that you would be able to offer us assistance in our mission to declaring October 2nd as Wrongful Conviction day across Canada. So far, the following cities have joined us in our efforts: Vancouver, Toronto, Oakville, Ajax, Pickering, Oshawa, and Kingston. There are more cities who have agreed and are sending their proclamations but we have yet to receive them.

The purpose of Wrongful Conviction Day is to spread awareness about wrongful convictions and the effects these convictions have on individuals, their families, and the society at large. Through Wrongful Conviction Day, Innocence Canada aims to decrease the amount of wrongful convictions in Canada by encouraging the justice system to address issues that contribute to wrongful convictions.

Innocence Canada is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1993 dedicated to identifying, advocating for, and exonerating individuals convicted of a crime that they did not commit. Innocence Canada has successfully secured the exoneration of 21 wrongly convicted individuals since it was founded in 1993. Amongst these exonerees are David Milgaard, Romeo Phillion, Steven Truscott and Guy Paul Morin. There is an undetermined amount of individuals sitting in Canadian prisons right now for crimes they did not commit. The varying factors leading to these convictions include tunnel vision, false witness testimony, and forced confessions. Nobody is exempt from the possibility of being wrongfully convicted. For more information please visit <http://www.aidwyc.org/> and feel free to contact me if you have further questions.

The draft wording of the proclamation would be as follows:

WHEREAS the loss of one's freedom due to a wrongful conviction is a major human rights issue that has far-reaching effects, and

WHEREAS the pernicious effects of wrongful convictions, including but not limited to personal, social, and legal costs devastate individuals and societies as a whole, and

WHEREAS wrongful convictions are serious miscarriages of justice that call into question the legitimacy, integrity and fairness of our criminal justice system, and unless corrected, undermine the trust of societies in their criminal justice systems, and

WHEREAS it is important to inform the broader community on the causes, consequences, and complications associated with wrongful criminal convictions, and

WHEREAS the prevention of injustice is a valuable service to the citizens of this community, and

WHEREAS Innocence Canada (also known as the Association in Defence of the Wrongly Convicted) is a national, non-profit organization dedicated to identifying, advocating for, and assisting individuals who have been wrongly convicted of crimes they did not commit, while also taking measures to prevent future wrongful convictions through awareness, education, and justice system reform, and

WHEREAS it is deemed desirable to designate one-day set aside for British Columbians and the public at large to recognize and pay special tribute those forced to endure the tremendous consequences brought by flaws within our justice system, and focus on and discuss the causes and remedies concerning wrongful convictions;

Sincerely,

Woojin Lim