

**Childhood Cancer Flag Raising**

**September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 – 5:00 P.M. Civic Centre**

**[AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY]**

Good afternoon, I'd like to thank everyone for joining us here today. I want to offer my thanks to Dayna Caruso of Northern Ontario Families of Children with Cancer for joining us and for all of her work to coordinate this afternoon's flag-raising.

I'd also like to acknowledge the members of the Campioni family who are in attendance with us. In life, Angela was the embodiment of courage. Her courage, optimism and openness about her battle with an unfair and unrelenting disease inspired our whole community. And her loss has been felt and mourned by the whole community too. I was privileged to be able to speak with Angela earlier this year. That conversation will be one of the memories that I know I will hold most dear from my time as Mayor.

We are here this afternoon to proclaim September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Cancer is a cruel disease under any circumstance, but it is at its cruelest when it afflicts children.

I know that most of you here have been touched by childhood cancer in some way. I will share with you that my own life has been affected by childhood cancer too. When I was growing up, I lost my best friend to cancer. And as I'm sure you appreciate, it was a very sad and difficult experience.

So today and this month are in part about the importance of memory. It's about remembering those who have survived, those who are currently fighting, and those who have been lost to childhood cancer. And in case of those who were taken too young, it is about remembering their lives and how they lived. It's about remembering the love and laughter we shared with them. It's about continuing to cherish the time we spent together, even if it was too short of a time.

But today is also about hope. It's about affirming our hope that through awareness, advocacy and support that we can make strides in the fight against childhood cancers. I ask you to keep this hope with you. Because hope is the well that all progress is drawn from. And if we each continue to add to it, it will never run dry.

Thank you for allowing me to share these thoughts with you. I would now like to read the proclamation that will be presented at our City Council meeting on September 14<sup>th</sup>.