

Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Month

May 2026

WHEREAS multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS) is a recognized disability in Canada that can substantially limit major life activities, including breathing, mobility, access to housing, employment, healthcare, education, and public services;

WHEREAS the Canadian Human Rights Commission recognizes environmental sensitivities, including multiple chemical sensitivity, as a disability and affirms that **scent-free environments and the use of lowest-VOC-emission, least-toxic products constitute required accommodations** to ensure equality and non-discrimination;

WHEREAS the American Medical Association has adopted policy recognizing fragrance sensitivity including MCS as a condition that may limit major life activity, and has endorsed **fragrance-free policies, ingredient transparency, research, and clinical awareness** as **necessary measures to reduce harm and improve access in healthcare and public settings;**

WHEREAS people living with multiple chemical sensitivity may experience serious and disabling health effects when exposed to fragranced products, cleaning agents, pesticides, building materials, and other chemical emissions commonly present in public and private environments;

WHEREAS Canada is a State Party to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and has been directed by the UN Committee to **eliminate discrimination against persons with multiple chemical sensitivity and ensure full equality and inclusion** across all levels of government;

WHEREAS the Accessible Canada Act (2019) establishes a proactive duty to identify, remove, and prevent barriers to accessibility for all persons with disabilities, including through inclusive public environments and services at all levels of government;

WHEREAS **Statistics Canada data indicate that more than 1.13 million Canadians have been diagnosed with multiple chemical sensitivity**, confirming its prevalence and public-health significance;

WHEREAS May is recognized internationally as **Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Month**, and May 12 as **Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Day**, dedicated to advancing understanding of MCS as a disability and the need for accessible, fragrance-free, and lowest VOC-emission environments;

THEREFORE, Members of Okotoks Town Council do hereby proclaim **May 2026 as Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Month** and **May 12, 2026 as Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Day**, and encourage actions that uphold accessibility, dignity, and human rights for people living with MCS.

--ORIGINAL SIGNED--