



PORT COLBORNE

March 26, 2024

Moved by Councillor
Seconded by Councillor

WHEREAS World Autism Day will be recognized on April 2, 2024 in Canada thanks to Senator Jim Munson's Bill S-206, *An Act Respecting World Autism Awareness Day*; and

WHEREAS Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) affects more than 135,000 Ontarians. Autism Spectrum Disorder is a neurodevelopmental disorder affecting 1 in every 66 Canadian children, as well as their friends, family, and community; and approximately 1-2% of the Canadian population is on the autism spectrum; and

WHEREAS ASD is a spectrum disorder, which means it not only manifests itself differently in every individual in whom it appears, but its characteristics will change over the life of each person as well. A child on the autism spectrum will become an adult on the autism spectrum; and

WHEREAS Autism Ontario is the leading source of information and referral on autism and one of the largest collective voices representing the autism community. Since 1973, Autism Ontario has been providing support, information, and opportunities for thousands of families and individuals across the province; and

WHEREAS Autism Ontario is dedicated to increasing public awareness about autism and the day-to-day issues faced by individuals with autism, their families, and the professionals with whom they interact. The association and its Regions share common goals of providing information and education, supporting research, and advocating for programs and services for the autism community; and

NOW THEREFORE I, Mayor William C. Steele, do hereby proclaim April 2, 2024 as **World Autism Awareness Day** in the City of Port Colborne.

William C. Steele
Mayor