

Sickle Cell Awareness Day Act

CHAPTER 16 OF THE ACTS OF 2023



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**An Act to Establish
a Sickle Cell Awareness Day**

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WHEREAS sickle cell disease is characterized by a mutation in the shape of red blood cells from a smooth, circular shape to a crescent shape, which can result in the blockage of small blood vessels and the impairment of blood flow, leading to a reduction in red blood cell survival and subsequent anemia;

AND WHEREAS the poor blood oxygen levels and blood vessel blockages that result from sickle cell disease can lead to severe chronic pain, serious bacterial infections and tissue death;

AND WHEREAS blood vessel blockages can affect all parts of the body and result in organs becoming starved for oxygen and unable to function properly;

AND WHEREAS the lifespan of persons with severe sickle cell disease can be reduced by as much as 30 years;

AND WHEREAS approximately five per cent of the world’s population carries the trait gene for sickle cell disease, with the percentage of carriers of the gene being as high as 25% in some regions;

AND WHEREAS sickle cell disease is particularly common among people whose ancestors come from India, Saudi Arabia and Mediterranean and sub-Saharan African countries;

AND WHEREAS it is important to raise awareness of sickle cell disease, including the need for uniform screening of newborns and improved diagnosis and treatment of the disease;

AND WHEREAS June 19th is recognized annually by organizations such as the African Union, the World Health Organization and the United Nations, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as World Sickle Cell Day in order to promote awareness of the disease around the world:

Short title

1 This Act may be cited as the *Sickle Cell Awareness Day Act*. 2023, c. 16, s. 1.

NOVEMBER 9, 2023

Sickle Cell Awareness Day

2 Throughout the Province, in each and every year, June 19th shall be kept and observed under the name Sickle Cell Awareness Day. 2023, c. 16, s. 2.
