

Mayor Joe Preston and City Council Members  
City Manager Sandra Datars Bere  
City of St. Thomas  
545 Talbot Street  
St. Thomas ON N5P 3V7

City of St. Thomas

**MAR 17 2025**

City Clerks Dept.

February 25, 2025

Dear Mayor Preston, Council and Ms. Datars Bere:

First off, I'd like to thank the City of St. Thomas for participating in Light It Up! For NDEAM™ 2024 last October 17 by illuminating the Jumbo Monument purple and blue.

You helped make last year's event a history-making, record smashing success. The Jumbo Monument was one of well over 800 locations in almost 200 communities, in every province and territory, that participated in Light It Up! For NDEAM 2024.

As well, the City of St. Thomas was one of 83 municipalities — another record number — across Canada that illuminated 95 town/city halls, signature signs or other municipal structures.

I'm inviting the City of St. Thomas to participate again this year in Light It Up! For NDEAM on **Thursday, October 16** by illuminating the Jumbo Monument purple and blue.

As a reminder, *Light It Up! For NDEAM* is an annual, national lighting event that recognizes how people who have a disability contribute to businesses and their communities, helping companies be successful and competitive.

It's much more than a lighting event that raises awareness about the importance of disability-inclusive hiring and disability inclusion, in business, in workplaces, in employment and in our communities.

It's a national movement that sparks continuing conversation about equitable employment opportunities for people who have a disability.

It happens the third Thursday of every October during National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM).

Light It Up! For NDEAM is the most expansive lighting event of its kind in North America. There's no other event like this one, during NDEAM!

Light It Up! For NDEAM is owned and led by the Ontario Disability Employment Network (ODEN). But it happens nationwide through a remarkable collaborative effort and participation by:

- Other national and regional organizations in the disability and supported employment sector
- Many, many community-based Employment Service Providers across Canada
- The federal government (since 2021)
- Provincial and territorial governments
- Municipalities across Canada

Here are the municipalities that have already confirmed their involvement in Light It Up! For NDEAM 2025:

- Port of Halifax — Halifax Seaport District (participating since 2021)
- Port Moody, BC — City Hall (participating since 2022; now automatically puts Light It Up! For NDEAM on their annual lighting schedule)
- London, ON — City Hall, J.A. Taylor Building (participating since 2020)
- Ladysmith, BC — Both municipal signature signs, Town Hall
- Oakville, ON — Town Hall (participating since 2020)
- Brampton, ON — City Hall Clock Tower (participating since 2020)
- Sarnia, ON — City Hall (participating since 2020)
- Fort McMurray, AB — Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo — Saline Creek Pedestrian Bridge (participated for the first time in 2024)
- Nanaimo, BC — The Bastion (participating since 2021)
- Hamilton, ON — City Hall and Signature Sign (participating since 2020)
- Red Deer, AB — City Hall (participating since 2021)
- Burlington, ON — Brant Street Pier

As the Light It Up! For NDEAM National Campaign Co-ordinator, I know that many more municipalities will be added to this 2025 list in the coming months. It would be great to add the City of St. Thomas to the list again this year.

A reminder of the Light It Up! For NDEAM colour specifications:

- Purple (R 125 G 82 B 138)
- Blue (R 50 G 77 B 92)

The social media hashtags for the event are **#LightItUpForNDEAM**, **#LightItUpForDEAM** and **#EngageTalent**.

I'll look forward to hearing back from you about the City of St. Thomas's participation in Light It Up! For NDEAM next October 16.

My email address is [daskin@odenetwork.com](mailto:daskin@odenetwork.com). Or, you can reach me on my mobile at 416-818-1514.

Best Regards,



**Dean Askin**

Communications Strategist

*Light It Up! For NDEAM* National Campaign Co-ordinator

Ontario Disability Employment Network