



Proclamation

GBS and CIDP Awareness Month

May 2025

WHEREAS the Month of May, has been internationally designated as "GBS and CIDP Awareness Month" to educate the public and to focus attention on Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) and Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy (CIDP), rare, paralyzing and potentially catastrophic disorders of the peripheral nerves;

WHEREAS Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) and its variants, are rare conditions which can be characterized by rapid onset of weakness and, often, paralysis of the legs, arms, breathing muscles and face, in some cases leading to complete paralysis requiring life-sustaining hospital care. Often accompanied with excruciating pain;

WHEREAS Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy (CIDP) and its variants, are rare progressive conditions, which can be characterized by the onset of weakness, numbness and tingling, which can lead to the paralysis of the legs and arms and effect other areas of the body, and it is not uncommon for individuals to endure significant pain;

WHEREAS the cause of GBS and CIDP is unknown, and these conditions can develop in any person, regardless of age, gender or ethnic background;

WHEREAS GBS and CIDP have a slow and unpredictable recovery, patients and their families face an uncertain future, usually requiring months of hospital care without knowing if or when they will recover, or whether they will face long-term disabilities. Earlier diagnosis, treatment, and access to rehabilitation services can improve the chances of avoiding permanent lifelong residual damage of the nerves;

WHEREAS in 2003, GBS/CIDP Foundation of Canada a patient organization providing support, education, research, and advocacy, was founded so that no patient or family would go through GBS, CIDP, and variants such as MMN alone.

THEREFORE, I, the Honourable Mark McLane, Minister of Health and Wellness, do hereby recognize May 2025 as GBS and CIDP Awareness Month in the Province of Prince Edward Island.

Signed in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island on the 19th day of February 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark McLane", written over a horizontal line.

Hon. Mark McLane, Minister of Health and Wellness, Prince Edward Island