[Français](http://www.ontario.ca/fr/lois/loi/21s22)

Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Day and Thalassemia Awareness Day Act, 2021

[S.o. 2021, chapter 22](https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/s21022)

**Consolidation Period:** From June 3, 2021 to the [e-Laws currency date](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/navigation?file=currencyDates&lang=en).

No amendments.

Preamble

Sickle cell disease and thalassemia are the most common inherited blood disorders in the world. As debilitating genetic diseases, they can cause severe chronic pain, organ dysfunction, bacterial infections, and many other serious complications. The lifespan of individuals with these disorders can be reduced by as much as 30 years.

Approximately five per cent of the world’s population are healthy carriers of the genes for sickle cell disease or thalassemia, with the percentage as high as 25 per cent in some regions. Although Ontario now offers universal newborn screening for these disorders, important gaps remain in our understanding and knowledge about their exact prevalence in our province.

June 19 is recognized annually as World Sickle Cell Day by organizations such as the World Health Organization, African Union, and the United Nations, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. May 8 is recognized annually as World Thalassemia Day throughout the world and by the Thalassemia International Federation.

Proclaiming June 19as Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Day and May 8 as Thalassemia Awareness Day in Ontario would increase awareness of these blood disorders in our province and dedicate a day to support individuals who have sickle cell disease or thalassemia and their families.

Therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:

Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Day

**1** June 19 in each year is proclaimed as Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Day.

Thalassemia Awareness Day

**2** May 8in each year is proclaimed as Thalassemia Awareness Day.

**3** Omitted (provides for coming into force of provisions of this Act).

**4** Omitted (enacts short title of this Act).

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