

**From:** [Cristin O'Sullivan](#)  
**To:** [Lindsey Green](#); [Elisha Milne](#)  
**Cc:** [Paul Wagenaar](#)  
**Subject:** Request for Support in "Light It Up! For NDEAM®" Initiative  
**Date:** August 13, 2024 1:41:43 PM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-giqvsait.png](#)  
[20240813 Life Directions Employment Light It Up! Presentation Delegation.pptx](#)  
[2024 Request-to-Appear-as-a-Delegation-Form Southgate.pdf](#)

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Dear Clerk and Members of the Southgate Council,

I hope this message finds you well.

My name is Paul Wagenaar, and I am writing to you on behalf of Life Directions Employment Supports, in conjunction with the Ontario Disability Employment Network (ODEN). We are thrilled to request your support for the "Light It Up! For NDEAM®" initiative, celebrating its fifth anniversary in 2024.

While we understand that Southgate does not issue proclamations, we have one specific request that would make a significant impact:

**Light It Up:** We request the illumination of key landmarks in Southgate, such as the Water Tower, Dundalk Lions Pavillion, Township of Southgate office and/or another suggested landmark, in purple and blue on **October 17th, 2024**. This visual support will highlight the importance of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) and demonstrate Southgate's commitment to disability inclusion in employment. Please note that lighting up can be done throughout the month of October.

- [2-minute promotional video to show during the delegation]

(<https://www.odenetnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Liu4ND2024PromoVideoEN889x500.mp4>)

### **Event Information:**

Join the Light It Up! For NDEAM national movement and celebrate the fifth anniversary event with us in 2024! "Light It Up! For NDEAM®" is the main event of ODEN's annual NDEAM campaign. This initiative highlights the significant contributions of people with disabilities to businesses and

communities, demonstrating how disability inclusion in employment can drive success and competitiveness.

The event occurs nationwide on the third Thursday of every October, and for this year, it will fall on October 17th, 2024. However, "Light It Up! For NDEAM" is more than just a night; it has become a movement that ignites conversations about disability inclusion in employment across Canada.

In 2023, we saw unprecedented participation, with almost 700 locations in nearly 150 communities across Canada illuminating in purple and blue. This nationwide collaboration involves ODEN, the Canadian Association for Supported Employment, MentorAbility Canada, the federal government, municipal and provincial governments, Jobs Ability Canada, and many community-based agencies. It's this collective effort that makes "Light It Up! For NDEAM" a powerful event in big cities, small towns, and rural communities from coast to coast.

We invite Southgate to join this impactful movement by encouraging local businesses and community members to participate by illuminating key landmarks in purple and blue. The greater the participation, the greater the impact.

The colors we are requesting for the lighting are purple (R: 125 G: 82 B: 138) and blue (R: 50 G: 77 B: 92).

For more information and to see the full list of 2023 participating locations, please visit ODEN's website for this initiative: [ODEN - Light It Up! For NDEAM 2024](#).

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to the possibility of Southgate being a part of this meaningful initiative.

Thank you for your time and support.

Kind Regards,

Cristin O'Sullivan, Coordinator

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