

Shannon Mista

Subject: FW: SAID DAY IN ONTARIO on MAY 14

From: Beck, Patricia [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2026 11:27 AM
To: Zalepa, Gary <Gary.Zalepa@niagararegion.ca>
Subject: SAID DAY IN ONTARIO on MAY 14

**Niagara Region Security
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Dear Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa and Members of Council,

I am writing on behalf of Ontario Students Against Impaired Driving (OSAID) to invite the Municipality of Niagara and the Town of Niagara-On-The-Lake to support SAID Day – **Students Against Impaired Driving Day**, taking place on **May 14, 2026**. We would greatly appreciate all your support in **declaring SAID Day** in your city and look forward to your support of this very worth while cause of reducing impaired driving lead by the students in your area.

I would like to introduce myself, I am Patricia Beck and I am a member of the board of directors for OSAID, residing in Welland. I have been the staff rep for OSAID for over thirty years at Notre Dame College School and have served on the provincial OSAID Board for over twenty-five years. This is a cause which is near and dear to my heart, as impaired driving effects everyone in the community, family, schools and your city.

I would also like to take this opportunity to invite you to the **official Provincial Launch for SAID day** which will be held at **Notre Dame College School** in Welland on **TUESDAY MAY 12 at 10 a.m.** All of the Niagara Catholic District School Board secondary schools will be taking part in this event. Two years ago, our Provincial Launch was such a success, that students were invited to Provincial Parliament by both Premier Ford and the then Education Minister Stephen Lecce. This was an amazing opportunity and experience for over 50 students to attend and be rewarded for being leaders in our communities in their fight against Impaired Driving. Our goal is to have all of Niagara Region declare SAID day throughout all the Cities in our municipality and show the province that you are the leaders in supporting Student Against Impaired Driving.

SAID Day is a province-wide youth-led initiative that empowers students to promote responsible choices, raise awareness about the risks of impaired and distracted driving, and honour lives affected by preventable tragedies. Each year, thousands of students, educators, families, and community partners take part in activities that reinforce a shared commitment to safer roads.

Impaired and distracted driving are significant safety concerns in Ontario and across Canada, particularly among young people. Motor vehicle collisions are the leading cause of death for youth aged 16–25, with alcohol and/or drug impairment cited in more than half of those crashes. These trends

highlight the ongoing need for education, prevention, and community engagement to protect our young drivers and passengers.

Municipal leadership plays an important role in amplifying this message. There are several meaningful and low-cost ways your municipality could support SAID Day, including:

- Issuing a Mayoral Proclamation recognizing May 14, 2026, as SAID Day in your community.
- Sharing supportive messaging through municipal social media channels.
- Displaying SAID Day messaging on electronic or digital municipal signage, where available.

These gestures of support send a powerful message to young people and their families that their community values road safety, prevention, and youth leadership.

We would be pleased to provide sample proclamation wording, social media graphics, or key messages to make participation as simple as possible for your team.

Thank you for considering this request and for your continued commitment to community safety. We would welcome the opportunity to work together to help keep the odds in favour of safe, sober roads.

Sincerely,

Patricia Beck

Patricia Beck

OSAID BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF REP FOR NOTRE DAME OSAID GROUP

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