

PROCLAMATION  
World Autism Awareness Day

Whereas,

Every year, more children are diagnosed with Autism than with AIDS, diabetes and cancer combined; Autism is the fastest-growing developmental disability without regard to social, ethnic or economic barriers, and

Whereas, Autism Spectrum Disorder affects as many as 1 in every 110 children worldwide; there are approximately 106 children with Autism in Bermuda and the lifetime cost of caring for a single child with Autism can be as high as \$5 million, and

Whereas,

Autism is more prevalent in males than in females; it is not a mental illness; there is no known cause or cure but studies have shown that if treatment is started at an early age, great progress can be made, and

Whereas

The Bermuda Autism Support and Education Society (BASE) strives to be a solid foundation for parents, professionals and all persons living with and affected by the Autism Spectrum; BASE aims to bring positive changes in the lives of children with Autism by enabling them to reach their full potential, and

Whereas

The Government of Bermuda supports the Bermuda Autism Support and Education Society for bringing a greater awareness of Autism through education and information and thereby increasing community understanding and support for those living with autism.

Therefore,

Be it hereby declared that today, Tuesday April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013, Bermuda recognizes World Autism Awareness Day.

And therefore, I, the Hon. L. Craig Cannonier, JP, MP, Premier of Bermuda, do encourage the community to support the Bermuda Autism Support and Education Society as they host a number of events throughout the month to further raise awareness of Autism and the help and guidance that is available to families in Bermuda.

The Hon. L. Craig Cannonier

Date April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013