



FORTFRANCES
PROCLAMATION

Project Dark Sky

April 13-20, 2026

WHEREAS, the night sky has been a source of wonder, creativity, and inspiration for generations connecting humanity with the cosmos, and

WHEREAS, preserving our dark skies is vital to ensure that future generations can continue to experience its beauty, learn from it, and find their own sense of awe, and

WHEREAS, light pollution is a growing problem, diminishing the visibility of stars, disrupting ecosystems, and negatively affecting human health by altering circadian rhythms, and

WHEREAS, studies show that artificial light at night contributes to increased energy consumption and disrupts wildlife, particularly migratory birds, insects, and nocturnal animals; and

WHEREAS, 80% of the world's population live under a dome of light pollution and may never experience the visual wonder of ecological health benefits of living under a dark sky, we cherish Northwestern Ontario's dark and starry night skies; and

WHEREAS, communities across Northwestern Ontario and the country, including the Town of Fort Frances, have recognized the importance of International Dark Sky Week and "Lights out" initiatives aimed at reducing unnecessary lighting during critical migration periods; and

WHEREAS, responsible outdoor lighting, such as using fully shielded fixtures and minimizing the use of bright blue-rich lighting, is shown to reduce light pollution while maintaining safety and security; and

WHEREAS, the still-dark skies of our region create an economic opportunity through astro-tourism; and

WHEREAS, community awareness and participation in reducing light pollution can be promoted through education, outreach, and collaborative efforts with local organizations, businesses, and residents.

NOW THEREFORE, I Andrew Hallikas, Mayor of Fort Frances do hereby proclaim our support for Project Dark Sky and encourage all citizens to participate in efforts to reduce light pollution, promote energy efficiency, and protect the night sky for future generations, and I hereby proclaim the week of April 13th to April 20th Dark Sky Week in Fort Frances



Mayor Andrew Hallikas

