



## PROCLAMATION

To designate March 2026  
as  
**#ITSTARTS Month**

*Whereas* Inclusion, acceptance, and equity are important approaches to the diversity of residents living in any community, especially in our growing and changing region; and

*Whereas* March 21st is recognized as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; and

*Whereas* 2026 marks ten years of the ITSTARTS campaign in Simcoe County; and

*Whereas* The Simcoe County Local Immigration Partnership (SCLIP) is a community partnership focused on the development of settlement strategies for newcomers. These strategies bring together and support service delivery to newcomers in Simcoe County while promoting positive relationships, opportunity, and use of local resources effectively; and

*Whereas* This month presents an opportunity to further the resolve as we pause to celebrate the diversity of the human race rather than allow our dissimilarities to become a reason for racial separation; and

*Whereas* We encourage everyone to recognize and appreciate one another's differences, and to celebrate diversity in race, culture, colour, national origin, gender, age, disability, and religion; and

*Whereas* During this period, we will be hosting an awareness campaign and encouraging residents to take a stand and support #ITSTARTS to share their commitment to embracing acceptance, anti-racism and diversity.

*Therefore I, Warden Basil Clarke,* on behalf of Simcoe County Council, do hereby proclaim the month of March 2026, as "#ITSTARTS Month" in the County of Simcoe and encourage everyone to take a stand and participate in and learn more about the #ITSTARTS campaign.

Dated at the County of Simcoe, Midhurst on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of February 2026.

Basil Clarke, Warden  
County of Simcoe