



For the Committee of the Whole Meeting April 12 2018

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**Date:** March 30, 2018

**From:** Mayor Helps

**Subject:** Support in Principle for Francophone Games

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### **Background**

In 2016, a group of Francophones from the region submitted a bid to host the 2020 Canadian Francophones Games here, in the Victoria region. In February 2017, the bid was successful. The Games will be between July 12th and 18th 2020.

The Games take place every three years and they are the largest francophone event dedicated exclusively to francophone youth. The 2020 games are the eighth games and it will be the first time the games are held in the province of British Columbia. The games involve over 1000 participants ranging from 13 to 18 years old who come from every province and territory in Canada. There are also more than 500 volunteers. All of those combined bring a great positive impact on promoting the 3 sectors of competition showcased during this week: Arts, Leadership and Sports.

The vision of the Games is to “celebrate the French speaking youth in Canada and contribute to develop their identity, individually and as a group”. It is an excellent opportunity for development and as the Games are organized BY and FOR the youth.

The values promoted throughout this event are the pride to live and thrive in a culture that is in minority in BC. Cooperation, inclusion, solidarity, respect and equality lead the movement of the Games to ensure that it is successful and sets ground for a long legacy.

The Games provides francophone youth, aged 13-18, an opportunity to demonstrate their artistic, leadership and athletic abilities through various competitions that include verbal, mental and physical skills. It will also be the occasion to celebrate the gathering of the many cultures and accents that comprise the Francophonie across Canada with cultural events around the Greater Victoria region.

The organization committee is working hard to make the Games as inclusive as can be and offer free access to venues to all who wish to attend and take part in the event.

The organizational committee is in conversation with the provincial and federal governments and all four municipalities in which the Games will be held: Victoria, Oak Bay, Saanich and Esquimalt.

Several public organizations as well as corporate and private sponsors have been approached and have shown interest in partnering. At this point I am not requesting Council to approve a financial contribution (though the tentative budget is attached for information); the recommendation is for staff to engage in a conversation with the organizers and to report back to Council.

**Recommendation**

That Council support the Francophone Games in principle and direct staff to explore opportunities for support of the games and report back to Council.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Helps", written in a cursive style.

Mayor Helps