

## **“INDEPENDENT LIVING ACROSS CANADA DAY”**

- WHEREAS** *People with disabilities face different barriers than those without disabilities support from the community and our peers is crucial to help create an independent individual. Incorporated February 15, 1990, the Victoria Disability Resource Centre (VDRC) is a cross-disability, grassroots, charitable organization run by and for persons with disabilities; and*
- WHEREAS** *A Board of Directors governs the organization. The Board is composed of community members both with and without disabilities elected by our members. We are a proud member of Independent Living Canada, the national umbrella organization representing and coordinating a network of independent living centres across Canada; and*
- WHEREAS** *The Victoria Disability Resource Centre works closely with people who have a disability and with other community organizations to find and remove barriers that prevent full participation in life. The Independent Living approach to providing services offers a new perspective on disability; and*
- WHEREAS** *The Independent Living Philosophy is an alternative approach to the traditional medical/rehabilitation service-delivery model. This philosophy promotes and encourages an attitude of ‘self-director’ in disabled individuals. It means that they negotiate and access the community services and resources they need to participate as equal citizens in their community; and*
- WHEREAS** *The Independent Living Philosophy recognises the rights of individuals with disabilities to assume risks and make choices. It puts decision-making right into their own hands. Consumers are encouraged to achieve self-direction over their personal care and the community services they need to achieve independence; and*
- WHEREAS** *The Independent Living Philosophy is premised on the belief that all people with disabilities have skills, determination, creativity and a passion for life, yet many face barriers limiting their full participation in their communities. These barriers include outdated attitudes, inflexible laws and regulations, lack of accessible transportation and the frequent fragmentation and lack of coordination among various social programs; and*
- WHEREAS** *Independent Living is founded on the principles that disabled people have the right to live with dignity in their chosen community, participate in all aspects of their life and control and make decisions about their own lives. It is about a way of living as a person with a disability in a society full of barriers.*

**NOW, THEREFORE** I do hereby proclaim June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018 as **“INDEPENDENT LIVING ACROSS CANADA DAY”** on the **TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES** of the **ESQUIMALT AND SONGHEES FIRST NATIONS** in the **CITY OF VICTORIA, CAPITAL CITY** of the **PROVINCE of BRITISH COLUMBIA**.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I hereunto set my hand this 24<sup>th</sup> day of May, Two Thousand and Eighteen.

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**LISA HELPS  
MAYOR  
CITY OF VICTORIA  
BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**Sponsored by:  
B. Snow Manning-Jones  
Director  
Victoria Disability  
Resource Centre**