

**“INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SIGN LANGUAGES AND WEEK OF THE DEAF”**

**WHEREAS** *the United Nations resolution to declare September 23rd as the International Day of Sign Languages was officially adopted at the 72nd General Assembly on December 19, 2017; and*

**WHEREAS** *the International Day of Sign Languages will take place as part of the International Week of the Deaf, which is celebrated from September 24 to 30, 2018. The theme for this year as promoted by the World Federation of the Deaf is “With Sign Language, Everyone is Included”; and*

**WHEREAS** *the Canadian Association of the Deaf-Association des Sourds du Canada and Deaf communities across Canada strive to remove barriers and ensure equal access in society for Deaf people as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD); and*

**WHEREAS** *it is a time to celebrate and promote awareness of Indigenous Sign Languages (ISL) and American Sign Language (ASL) / langue des signes québécoise (LSQ) with the richness, pride, and diversity of our communities. It is also an opportunity to recognize the importance of our Sign Languages to strengthen us socially, politically, culturally, economically; and*

**WHEREAS** *the City of Victoria supports the mandate of the Canadian Association of the Deaf-Association des Sourds du Canada, and aims for accessibility and inclusion while encouraging residents to participate in activities promoting Deaf cultural awareness and human rights of Deaf people; and*

**NOW, THEREFORE** *I do hereby proclaim Sunday September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018 as the “International Day of Sign Languages” and September 24<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 as the “International Week of the Deaf” 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 here unto set my hand this 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, Two Thousand and Eighteen.*

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

**Sponsored By:**  
**Canadian Association of**  
**the Deaf (CAD) for BC**  
**ASL/LSQ Awareness Day**

