

**“NATIONAL HOMELESS PERSONS’ MEMORIAL DAY”**

- WHEREAS** *December 21 is the first day of winter and the longest night of the year; and*
- WHEREAS** *the winter poses severe hardship for homeless, unsheltered and inadequately housed low-income women, men and children in Victoria; and*
- WHEREAS** *stigma towards people who are homeless in our community undermines homeless persons' efforts to fully participate in our community; and*
- WHEREAS** *reducing homelessness contributes to a better quality of life and a safer community for everyone; and*
- WHEREAS** *local, regional and national research has shown that adequate housing and a range of support services are integral to successful health promotion, and the well-being of individuals, families and the community; and*
- WHEREAS** *people who experience homelessness have poorer health, shorter life expectancy and often lack access to health services; and*
- WHEREAS** *in Article 25(1) of its Universal Declaration of Human Rights the United Nations has affirmed that housing is a human right; and*
- WHEREAS** *December 21 has been designated National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day by the US National Coalition for the Homeless, and is so recognized by cities around the world; and*
- WHEREAS** *December 21 falls within traditional seasons of generosity and sharing; and in these seasons of generosity Victoria residents are disposed to commit themselves to promoting compassion and concern for all our brothers and sisters, especially those who are homeless; and*
- WHEREAS** *the spirit of these traditional holiday seasons encourages charitable giving and provides an opportunity for a renewed commitment to end homelessness; and*
- WHEREAS** *in remembering those who have died on the streets, the cause of ending homelessness is kept urgent, as is Victoria's collective commitment to preventing any such deaths in the future; and*
- BE IT RESOLVED** *in recognition of the people who have died homeless in and around Victoria, that Victoria City Council hereby asks all our residents to take a moment of silence in remembrance on December 21st; and*
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** *that Victoria City Council encourages our residents to support and participate in all local efforts to eliminate homelessness in our community.*

**NOW, THEREFORE** I do hereby proclaim December 21, 2018 as **“HOMELESS PERSONS’ MEMORIAL DAY”** on the **HOMELAND** of the Lekwungen speaking **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 13<sup>th</sup> day of December Two Thousand and Eighteen.

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

*Sponsored By: Victoria Committee to End  
Homelessness and Councillor Marianne  
Alto*