



Council Member Motion

For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 24, 2019

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** January 18, 2019
From: Councillor Thornton-Joe and Mayor Helps
Subject: Recognizing Victoria as the home to the Oldest Chinatown in Canada

BACKGROUND

In 2014 the Provincial Government unanimously passed the apology motion for historical wrongs against British Columbia's Chinese Canadian community.

"We can't undo the actions of the past - but we can acknowledge them, apologize, and learn from them," said Premier Christy Clark. "Today, we rightly recognize and celebrate cultural diversity - and that's why all sides of the legislature were able to come together to offer our deepest regrets to members of the Chinese community for historic wrongs."

In 2017, Premier Horgan unveiled the monument in Victoria's Chinatown "signifying the deepest regret for the hardship and suffering our past provincial governments imposed on Chinese Canadians and Chinese people in British Columbia."

RECOMMENDATION

WHEREAS in September of 2018, the Province of British Columbia and the City of Vancouver signed a Memorandum of Understanding committing to work in partnership to have Vancouver's Chinatown designated a United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage site and to establish a Chinese Canadian Museum.

AND WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia is considering a hub and spoke model and may be considering museums.

AND WHEREAS the City of Victoria is the Province's Capital City and has the oldest Chinatown in Canada and second oldest in North America.

THEREFORE Move to Request the Mayor write to the Minister of State and Trade and the Province of BC asking to be recognized that as the Provincial Capital and the home to the oldest Chinatown in Canada, that the Province commit to putting a Chinese Museum in Victoria.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlayne Thornton-Joe".

Councillor Thornton-Joe

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mayor Helps".

Mayor Helps