

“SIKH HERITAGE DAY”

- WHEREAS** *Sikhism is a religion founded in the Panjab region of South Asia over five centuries ago and introduced to Canada in the 19th century; and*
- WHEREAS** *Sikhism is the fifth largest world independent religion with approximately 30 million adherents from diverse backgrounds throughout the world, including approximately 500,000 adherents in Canada; and*
- WHEREAS** *Sikhs in Canada pursue diverse professions and walks of life, making rich contributions to the social, cultural, and economic vibrancy of Canada, including service as members of the Canadian Forces; and*
- WHEREAS** *Vaisakhi is one of the most religiously significant days in Sikh history, commemorating the creation of the Khalsa, a nation of devout Sikhs, by Guru Gobind Singh in 1699; and*
- WHEREAS** *the celebration of Vaisakhi includes performing Seva (selfless service), such as providing free meals to all visitors to Sikh Gurdwaras; and*
- WHEREAS** *on April 28th, the Vaisakhi celebration will take place at Gurdwara Singh Sabha, showcasing the Sikh community through prayer, followed by a parade and food for everyone to enjoy*
- WHEREAS** *Today, the City of Victoria seeks to recognize the diversity of its community and afford all residents the opportunity to better understand, recognize and appreciate the rich history and shared experiences*

NOW, THEREFORE I do hereby proclaim Sunday, April 14th, 2019 as “**SIKH HERITAGE DAY**”, on the **TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES** of the **LEKWUNGEN SPEAKING, ESQUIMALT AND SONGHEES FIRST NATIONS** in the **CITY OF VICTORIA, CAPITAL CITY** of the **PROVINCE** of **BRITISH COLUMBIA** and wish the Sikh community a joyous Vaisakhi celebration on April 14th 2019.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this 28th day of March, Two Thousand and Nineteen.

LISA HELPS
MAYOR
CITY OF VICTORIA
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Sponsored by:
Gurdwara Singh Sabha