

**“INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ZERO TOLERANCE
FOR FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION”**

- WHEREAS** *International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is observed around the world and provides an opportunity to honour those women, girls, boys and men who are actively and courageously working towards an end to this harmful practice.; and*
- WHEREAS** *this day invites us to reflect on the fact that 3.9 million girls are still at risk of mutilation each year, including girls in Canada.; and*
- WHEREAS** *on this day, we acknowledge that female genital mutilation is an issue on every continent except Antarctica, and that there are 200 million FGM/C survivors in the world, including thousands in Canada; and*
- WHEREAS** *we acknowledge that FGM has no basis in any religious text and is recognized by the United Nations and other world bodies as child abuse and an abuse of a girl’s fundamental human rights; and*
- WHEREAS** *we acknowledge that FGM/C has no benefits and causes only harm, including death, difficulties with urination, menstruation, sexual intimacy, post-traumatic stress disorder and increased maternal and child mortality; and*
- WHEREAS** *on this International Day of Zero Tolerance For FGM, we acknowledge and celebrate all national and international efforts being made, especially at the grass roots level, to achieve United Nations Sustainable Millennium Development Goal #5, which calls for the elimination of FGM and other harmful traditional practices by 2030; and*
- WHEREAS** *on this Day of Zero Tolerance, we call for increased, concerted global and Canadian action to end female genital mutilation, and ask all governments-international, national, and local- to fully uphold the human rights of women and girls so they can live a life free from the violence that is female genital mutilation; and*

NOW, THEREFORE I do hereby proclaim Thursday, February 6th, 2020 as **“INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ZERO TOLERANCE FOR FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION”** on the HOMELANDS of the Lekwungen speaking **SONGHEES AND ESQUIMALT PEOPLE** in the **CITY OF VICTORIA, CAPITAL CITY** of the **PROVINCE** of **BRITISH COLUMBIA**.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this January 23rd, Two Thousand and Twenty.

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

Sponsored by:
Stephanie Sinitzin
End FGM/C Canada Network