

**“HONOURING THE NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN”**

**WHEREAS** *following the October Revolution in the Russian Empire, the Azerbaijani people established the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic on May 28, 1918, which became the first secular democracy in the entire Muslim world; and*

**WHEREAS** *the new democracy enacted many progressive reforms, including granting the right to vote to women in 1919, which made Azerbaijan not only the first majority-Muslim nation to empower women, but it also put the country ahead of many advanced nations of the time in championing women’s rights; and*

**WHEREAS** *since 1991, the Republic of Azerbaijan has consolidated its freedom and independence, and has become one of the world’s fastest developing and modernizing countries, the largest economy of the region and the Canada trade partner in the South Caucasus; and*

**WHEREAS** *every year, millions of Azerbaijanis around the globe, including tens of thousands in Canada. and many in the City of Victoria observe May 28 as Azerbaijan National Day, and remember the contributions of their forefathers to the spread of democracy in the regions of Caucasus, Central Asia and Middle East, as well as celebrate the remarkable achievements made by the Republic of Azerbaijan as a free and independent nation.*

**NOW, THEREFORE** *I do hereby proclaim Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 as “AZERBAIJAN NATIONAL DAY” 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 May 28, Two Thousand and Twenty.*

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

**Sponsored by:**  
*Ramil Gasimov  
North American Azerbaijani  
Youth Association (NAAYA)*