Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 26, 2020

Date: March 24, 2020

From: Councillor Ben Isitt and Councillor Jeremy Loveday

Subject: Scaling Up Growing in the City for Community Resilience

Background:

The Covid-19 pandemic has generated renewed interest in community resilience and food security. Many residents have expressed interest in growing food.

This aligns with the City of Victoria's commitment to food security in the Official Community Plan, the Strategic Plan 2019-2022 and the Growing in the City initiative.

It is therefore recommended that Council authorize staff to scale up the Growing in the City initiative for community resilience and food security.

Recommendations:

That Council authorize the scaling up of the Growing in the City initiative with the following actions, to increase community resilience and food security in response to Covid-19:

1. Temporarily reprioritize the focus of some Parks Department capacity to grow food plants from seed in the municipal nursery and greenhouses for planting in the 2020 growing season, harnessing expertise on appropriate plant selection from stakeholders in the Urban Food Table.

2. Work with stakeholder organizations in the Urban Food Table, School District 61 and local farmers to develop a distribution plan for food plants, soil and educational resources to scale up food production and increase community resilience and food security.

3. Adhere strictly to workplace safety and public health guidelines during the implementation of this program.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Isitt

Councillor Loveday