

“BLACK HISTORY MONTH”

- WHEREAS** *the celebration of Black History Month was introduced to Parliament in December 1995 by Jean Augustine, the first Black woman elected as a member of Parliament in Canada and officially observed across Canada for the first time in February 1996; and*
- WHEREAS** *during Black History Month, we celebrate the many achievements and contributions made by Black Canadians and learn about their important contributions to the economic, cultural, social, spiritual and political life of Canada, about the diversity of Black communities in Canada and about their importance to this country’s history; and*
- WHEREAS** *The vital role of Black residents in the City of Victoria can be traced back to 1858 with the arrival of approximately 800 people of African descent at the invitation of Sir James Douglas; and*
- WHEREAS** *the City of Victoria is working towards becoming a community that promotes inclusivity, understanding, collaboration, learning and appreciation of all cultures where all citizens – past, present, and future – are respected and recognized for their contributions and potential contributions; and*
- WHEREAS** *the observance of Black History Month calls our attention to the continued need to battle racism and build a society that lives up to its democratic ideals; and*
- WHEREAS** *the City of Victoria is proud to honor the history and contributions of Black Canadians in our community, throughout our province and nation.*

NOW, THEREFORE I do hereby proclaim the month of February 2021 as “**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**” 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 14th of January, Two Thousand and Twenty-One.

LISA HELPS
MAYOR
CITY OF VICTORIA
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Sponsored by:
Silvia Mangué Alene
BC Black History Awareness Society