



**Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of April 15, 2020**

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** April 11, 2020
From: Councillor Dubow
Subject: Solidarity with Indian Farmers

BACKGROUND

Whereas the passing of three agricultural bills by India in September 2020 will allow large corporations to dominate the sector,

Whereas Indian farmers have been protesting against these bills at Delhi's border since November 2020,

Whereas anti-farmer policies, pre-existing debt, and a lack of government investment in agriculture has led to many farmers committing suicide,

Whereas India's minorities taking part in the protests, like the Sikhs, have been vilified as anti-national by India's right-wing nationalists and media,

Whereas Indian farmers, journalists and activists have been assaulted, arbitrarily arrested and continually harassed by Indian authorities during the protests,

Whereas many residents in Victoria still own farmland in their ancestral countries,

Whereas many residents in Victoria are concerned about the welfare of their families in India,

Whereas Indian farmer solidarity rallies at the BC Legislature have taken place in the City of Victoria against these bills,

RECOMMENDATIONS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Victoria stands in solidarity with Indian farmers and directs the Mayor to write to the provincial and federal governments and ask them to support Indian farmers in their right to peaceful protest, a dignified living, and to accelerate this message to the Indian government.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Dubow', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Dubow