



## CITY OF VICTORIA

# PROCLAMATION

### **“SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH”**

**WHEREAS** *the month of April is recognized internationally as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, an annual campaign to raise public awareness about sexual assault and educate communities and individuals on how to prevent sexualized violence; and*

**WHEREAS** *rape culture is real and pervasive and it is imperative that as a society we create systemic and cultural change to build a culture of consent, awareness, and respect; and*

**WHEREAS** *elected officials have a responsibility to be part of the systemic and cultural change needed to build a culture of consent, awareness, and respect; and*

**WHEREAS** *Sexualized violence is prevalent in our community and survivors face barriers to justice through the legal system and, due to failures of our current system, sexualized violence goes extremely underreported; and*

**WHEREAS** *people who face systemic discrimination based on race, ethnicity, age, gender, religion, class, sexual orientation, and physical and mental abilities and people (particularly women, trans women and other trans people) who experience multiple or intersecting inequities (e.g., racism, classism, homophobia) are often targeted to a greater extent for sexualized violence; and*

**WHEREAS** *a number of survivors of sexualized violence in our community have courageously come forward to share their stories seeking justice and cultural change; and*

**WHEREAS** *the City of Victoria stands with survivors in their calls for change, safety, justice, and healing; and*

**WHEREAS** *the City of Victoria as an organization and as a community must commit to working to prevent sexualized violence, supporting survivors, and holding offenders accountable.*

**NOW, THEREFORE** *I do hereby proclaim the month of April 2021 as “SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS 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 fifteenth day of April, Two Thousand and Twenty-One.*

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

**Sponsored By:**  
**Councillor Potts & Councillor Loveday**