

“UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION”

WHEREAS *the City of Victoria is within Coastal and Straits Salish territory, the traditional territories of the Lekwungen peoples known today as Songhees and Esquimalt Nations and the W̱SÁNEĆ peoples known today as the W̱JOŁEŁP (Tsartlip), BOKÉĆEN (Pauquachin), W̱SIKEM (Tseycum), STÁUTW (Tsawout), and MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat) Nations; and*

WHEREAS *the United Nations declared the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) and calls upon everyone – from governments to multinational companies to school children – to help revive our damaged ecosystems through active stewardship and engagement; and*

WHEREAS *the City of Victoria’s Climate Leadership Plan, Sustainability Framework, and Sustainability Action Plan recognize the importance of and contributions to environmental stewardship in the community; and*

WHEREAS *the launch of the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration will continue to build understanding about the importance of habitats, biodiversity, community connections to nature, and opportunities for environmental caretaking so community members can contribute positive and meaningful action in Victoria; and*

WHEREAS *biodiversity loss continues on a local, regional, and global scale driven by habitat loss and degradation. The coming decade builds on accomplishments and momentum of global restoration efforts to date and will support future actions in the City of Victoria; and*

WHEREAS *ecological restoration is a fundamental and important action that Victoria and its residents take to help heal natural areas and systems so that may be resilient to the impacts of climate change, and contribute to nature-based solutions to climate change; and*

NOW, THEREFORE *I do hereby proclaim 2021 to 2030 as the “UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION” 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 25th February, Two Thousand and Twenty-One.*

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

Sponsored by:
*Nancy Shackelford
UVic Restoration of Natural Systems Program and
School of Environmental Studies*