Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of April 22, 2021

To:	Committee of the Whole	**Date:**	April 16, 2021
From:	Councillor Ben Isitt, Councillor Jeremy Loveday and Councillor Sharmarke Dubow		
Subject:	Permissive Tax Exemptions for Ethno-Cultural Community Centres		

BACKGROUND

In September 2020, Council provided direction to staff to explore permissive tax exemptions for ethno-cultural community centres in the city. A report on the implications of this direction is now available in a report to the April 16, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Making the City of Victoria's Permissive Tax Exemption Policy more inclusive is consistent with actions in the City of Victoria Strategic Plan 2019-2022, including actions to:

- *"Support arts, culture and innovation venues and spaces"*;
- *"Ensure ethno-cultural diversity in municipal festival, arts and cultural funding supports"*; and
- *"Create a Welcoming City Strategy*," including *"Community efforts that promote inclusivity, understanding and collaboration across cultures to learn about and appreciate everyone's unique perspective."*

It is therefore recommended that Council move forward with permissive tax exemptions for ethno-cultural community centres in the City of Victoria.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council directs staff to amend the permissive tax exemption policy to provide for eligibility for a 100% exemption for ethno-cultural community centres in the City of Victoria, to take effect in the current intake period ending October 31, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Isitt	Councillor Loveday	Councillor Dubow

Attachment:
1. Minutes of Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 10, 2020