

## Grant Diamond

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**From:** Morgan Blake <mo@hospitalityindustry.ca>  
**Sent:** May 10, 2021 10:23 AM  
**To:** Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor)

Victoria City Council  
Attn: Councillor Loveday and Councillor Potts

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to you today as the Founder and Community Manager of the Victoria Hospitality Industry group.

In recent months, several social media stories have brought the issues surrounding sexual violence in our community to the forefront of our local industry discussion. There is a tremendous outpouring of support to begin to address these issues immediately, and work together towards a culture shift in our restaurants, bars and venues from our nearly 6000 staff, management, owner and industry supplier members in our group.

In April of this year as a direct response, we formed a steering committee with the support and participation of senior leadership at the BC Restaurant and Foodservices Association (BCRFA) and the Alliance of Beverage Licensees (ABLE BC). Our stated goal is to develop an industry led education and training program to raise awareness and prevent sexualized violence in the Victoria Hospitality industry. Presently, we are in the process of developing our specific mandate, and anticipate our first fundraising effort to begin at the end of May.

We are reaching out to the City of Victoria in support of the 2019 motion presented to council, and to request Council participation in our process as we develop this program. It is our position that an industry led initiative will achieve greater engagement and support from local hospitality businesses, while providing a safer experience for our guests and neighbors in the Victoria area. Participation from the Victoria City Council or staff would be welcomed and appreciated as we start a collaborative process and receive input from a range of stakeholders.

Thank you for considering this request,

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Morgan 'Mo' Blake  
Founder & Community Manager  
Victoria Hospitality Industry Group

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*Do you work in the Victoria Hospitality Industry?*

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