



with a regular celebration this year and that it would also feel odd to do nothing. They also noted that we have our first family gathering since last fall next Wednesday and that that might be a good time to discuss options. Some members also noted that we should take our direction and seek input from both the Songhees and Esquimalt Chiefs.

The more we reflect, the more we understand that holding the usual Canada Day celebrations could be damaging to the City's and the community's reconciliation efforts. The history of our country's genocidal relationship with First Nations has been once again revealed in a way that is painful for the Lekwungen people as well as First Nations across the country.

Given this, the respectful, relationship-building and reconciliation-oriented step to take is to rethink the City of Victoria's traditional Canada Day celebration for 2021 and to take one of the two courses of action laid out in the recommendations below, to be determined by staff in conversation with the Songhees and Esquimalt Chiefs, the City Family and the long-standing Lekwungen participants in the City's Canada Day celebrations.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That Council direct staff to put on hold plans for the conventional Canada Day celebration this year and request that staff either:

a.) Do nothing further with respect to July 1<sup>st</sup> events this year

or

b.) Work with the Songhees and Esquimalt Chiefs, the City family and the long-standing Lekwungen participants in the City's Canada Day celebrations to explore the use of the hour-long TV broadcast as an educational opportunity, potentially drawing on the footage of the Reconciliation Dialogues (including but not limited to the first dialogue where Lekwungen elders and others share the history and stories of these lands known today as the City of Victoria, the last dialogue where the Canadian College of Performing Arts students provide an educational piece on the history of residential schools and Sir John A Macdonald), and on any contributions the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations may wish to make including, but not limited to, words from the Chiefs, songs and dances by the Lekwungen Dancers, etc.

The determination as to which course of action to take a.) or b.) to be made by staff in conversation with members of the City Family, the Nations and the long-standing Lekwungen participants of Canada Day events.

2. That this motion be forwarded to the daytime Council meeting of June 10<sup>th</sup> for consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Mayor Helps



Councillor Alto