



**Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 4th, 2021**

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** Oct.26, 2021
From: Councillor Loveday
Subject: Making Victoria a Bird Friendly City

BACKGROUND:

Across North America, there has been an alarming decrease in bird populations. According to Nature Canada “North American bird populations have dropped by more than 25%” in the last 50 years alone, a loss of 3 billion birds. Cities across Canada including Vancouver, Toronto, Ottawa, Markham, and others have adopted bird friendly design guidelines to help reverse this trend. Some municipalities are going further, seeking Nature Canada’s Bird Friendly City certification.

From Nature Canada:

Nature Canada has developed a certification standard to certify eligible cities as a “Bird Friendly City”, to recognize and celebrate the contributions they have made to save bird lives in their municipalities. The goal of certification is to provide local partners with a clear standard that reflects what a city needs to do to make it safe for birds. Certification is a badge of honor and a source of community pride. It tells the world that your city or town does things to help birds and reverse their declines in your own backyard. We are looking towards World Migratory Bird Day 2022 as a timeline to certify at least thirty eligible Canadian cities as a Bird Friendly City.

The City of Victoria has many policies in place that support bird populations including the Urban Forest Masterplan and support for the Victoria Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary. In addition, City of Victoria staff are working on an update to the Downtown Core Area Plan Design Guidelines which are set to include bird friendly design guidelines for the downtown core. Despite this work, more attention is needed to protect and support bird populations in the City of Victoria.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council direct staff to report back at the next Triannual Report with the implications of undertaking the following:
 - a. Developing bird friendly design guidelines for implementation across the City of Victoria, building off the work already envisioned as part of Downtown Core Area Plan Design Guidelines update;
 - b. Seeking certification as a Nature Canada Bird Friendly City.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Loveday', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Loveday