



SONGHEES NATION

Mayor Lisa Helps
City Hall
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6

January 4, 2022

VIA E-MAIL mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca

Dear Mayor Helps:

Re: Annual Grant from City of Victoria

I write on behalf of Songhees Nation to express the significance to reconciliation and the relationship between our communities of a decision by the City of Victoria's to send an annual grant to Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.

An annual grant to Songhees and Esquimalt Nations from City of Victoria property tax revenue, specifically from new assessed revenue from new developments and additions to existing properties, demonstrates the City's commitment to the principle that revenue sharing is part of the cost of conducting economic activities on Indigenous territories.

The City of Victoria is located on traditional lands of the Lək wəŋən speaking people, represented today by the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations. For too long, the City of Victoria has disproportionately benefited from land development activities on Songhees and Esquimalt territories. Benefits to the City have occurred to the detriment of the Songhees Nation, which has but a small fraction of its original territory and faces insufficient revenue to carry out our vision in the delivery of programs and services, language and culture revitalization, and stewardship of lands and waters.

We are pleased that the City of Victoria has worked with representatives of Songhees and Esquimalt Nations to identify ways to share some of the considerable wealth derived from the development of these lands. We believe working together is the foundation to a renewed relationship.

As such, Songhees Nation would like to express its strong support for the proposed City of Victoria 2022 budget measure to include a grant that would remit 15 per cent of new assessed revenue annually on a cumulative basis to Songhees and Esquimalt Nations. We believe this tangible display of reconciliation will strengthen relationships between our communities, allowing us to grow together in partnership and mutual respect.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chief Ron Sam". The signature is written over a white rectangular background that is part of the DocuSign verification box.

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Chief Ron Sam of Songhees Nation