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TE'MEXW TREATY ASSOCIATION

January 4, 2022

Mayor Lisa Helps
City Hall
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6TTA

VIA E-MAIL mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca

Dear Mayor Helps:

Re: Annual Grant from City of Victoria

I write on behalf of the Te'Mexw Treaty Association (TTA) to formally express support for an annual grant to Songhees and Esquimalt Nations from the City of Victoria. TTA is a society formed of five Coast Salish Nations, including the Songhees Nation, working together to negotiate modern Treaties.

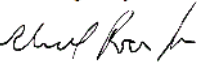
An annual grant to Songhees and Esquimalt Nations from City of Victoria property tax revenue, specifically from new assessed revenue from new developments and additions to existing properties, demonstrates the City's commitment to the principle that revenue sharing is part of the cost of conducting economic 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, even with a modern Treaty, will only have a small fraction of its original territory returned as Treaty Settlement Lands.

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. TTA support intergovernmental initiatives, as working together leads to stronger ties stand to support Treaty aspirations such as regional undertakings and collaboration on caretaking the lands, waters and resources of the territory.

TTA strongly supports 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 that this tangible display of reconciliation will strengthen the relationship between the Songhees Nation and the City, to the benefit of both communities.

Sincerely,

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Chief Ron Sam, Chief Negotiator

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