



June 13, 2022

Chief and Council
Songhees Nation
1100 Admirals Road,
Victoria, BC V9A 2P6

Dear Chief and Council,

Re: Seeking guidance and offering support and resources for observing and honouring September 30, The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

We are writing you today, collectively as Mayors of the 13 municipalities within our Region. We want to honour and observe The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, September 30, and we are seeking guidance from you and your communities, if you are willing to share your guidance, on the most respectful, meaningful, and culturally appropriate way.

If there are suggestions you would like to offer that we can facilitate, please let us know. These could include ideas on how we can demonstrate our support, initiatives, or events that we can support, or lessons and reflections that your communities would like us to acknowledge.

If you are interested in observing this day together, we would be honoured to be included and assist in any planned events or working to coordinate a larger community or regional event under your direction, if this is something you may be interested in.

We could work to create Orange Shirts that include the logos of municipalities and Nations and gift them to community members across the region.

Each of our municipalities have staff, resources, and venues that we can offer if you are interested. We want to offer our support and resources if you see that as an appropriate demonstration of friendship. We would also like to work with you to ensure any municipal or community events in 2022 avoid conflict with the priorities and events within your community.

If your community is observing this day and do not want our involvement or participation, we can understand and respect that too.

This will be the second official National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, and we know that there is a lot of work to do and there is a dark history in our country. We want to observe this day, in a respectful, meaningful, and sensitive way.

We are working with Indigenous communications and engagement specialist Charla Huber to assist us in these important conversations and next steps. If you are interested and willing to share your thoughts, requests, or offer us some suggestions on how we can do this in a meaningful way, please connect with Charla Huber at 250-686-7592 or charlahuber@outlook.com. Charla can coordinate meetings and conversations between Nations and Mayors at your request.

Thank for your ongoing friendship, support, and guidance. We are here to listen and learn from you and your community members and appreciate any information or ideas you are willing to share. We are connecting with Nations within the region to help guide us in this practice.

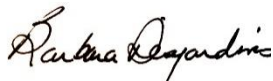
Thank you for your consideration,



Mayor Ryan Windsor
District of Central Saanich



Mayor Rob Martin
City of Colwood



Mayor Barb Desjardins
Township of Esquimalt



Mayor Ken Williams
District of Highlands



Mayor Stew Young
City of Langford



Mayor John Ranns
District of Metchosin



Mayor Geoff Orr
District of North Saanich



Mayor Kevin Murdoch
District of Oak Bay



Mayor Fred Haynes
District of Saanich



Mayor Cliff McNeil-Smith
Town of Sidney



Mayor Maja Tait
District of Sooke



Mayor Lisa Helps
City of Victoria



Mayor David Screech
Town of View Royal

