



Songhees Nation

June 20th, 2022

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 Royal View

Dear community partners:

Re: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation 2022

On behalf of Songhees Nation Council, thank you for your letter dated June 13th offering support in observing the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30. We appreciate your request for guidance and welcome your ideas for support.

Songhees Nation will be observing the second National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in a meaningful way that will honour the former Indian Residential School students, intergenerational survivors and the memory of those children who died while being forced to attend these institutions. As well, Council sees this day as an opportunity to build on or reset the relationships and protocols with local municipalities, to advance our shared priorities, and to continue to chart a path towards implementation of all 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

To achieve these objectives, the Nation is proposing:

- A cultural celebration and Pow Wow to mark September 30th on the South Island,
- Securing a venue large enough to hold such a celebration safely and respectfully (as a suggestion one of the athletic fields at the University of Victoria would be ideal),
- Establishing a First Nations/Indigenous coordinating committee chaired by Songhees Nation and made up of representatives from our neighboring Nations, and
- Financial support and sponsorship from each of the municipalities for costs associated with this event, which has the potential to draw quite a bit of interest from First Nations and Indigenous Peoples, the general public and from all levels of government.



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Furthermore, we would like to invite you to meet to explore the idea of a permanent powwow arbour, and memorial to honour Indian Residential School survivors and the children who did not make it home, and ongoing support for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Thank you again for your offer of assistance. Please indicate your interest and confirm receipt of this letter with Songhees Nation Executive Director Katherine Legrange at K.Legrange@songheesnation.com and Songhees Nation Executive Assistant Shayli Robinson at Shayli.Robinson@songheesnation.com.

Yours truly,

Chief Ron Sam
Songhees Nation

CC Songhees Nation Council
Charla Huber