



CITY OF VICTORIA

PROCLAMATION

“230th ANNIVERSARY – YEAR OF BLACK LOYALIST EXODUS 15 SHIPS TO SIERRA LEONE #1792 PROJECT”

- WHEREAS** *we proclaim the 230th anniversary of 15 ships departing the harbour of Halifax in 1792, and that the conditions and causes that led to the exodus of 1,196 self liberated Black Loyalist were conditions of abject institutionalized racism and that this departure took place at the height of the transatlantic chattel slave trade, one of the cruelest chapters in the history of humanity; and*
- WHEREAS** *The City of Victoria recognizes that people of African descent have been a part of Canadian society since the early 1600s and that their enslavement occurred on this land for centuries and that the Black Loyalists departure is linked to the failure of institutional, political and societal will to fulfill the promises that were made to the communities that left for Sierra Leone; and*
- WHEREAS** *#1792 Project is committed to promote histories such as the 15 Ships to Sierra Leone that often have been left in a vacuum of erasure throughout Canada. The resources provided for well known monumentation have historically been funded at the expense of those erasures*
- WHEREAS** *The City of Victoria continues to recognize the ongoing significance of the UN Decade of African Descent and the importance of recognizing the history of Black Loyalists in Nova Scotia and throughout Canada. We recognize that rural or urban, from sea to sea we share a responsibility for reparation; and*
- WHEREAS** *we recognize that secure housing and land was promised to these early settlers and very few received what was owed. Despite petitions (by Thomas Peters) the promised land and supplies were not provided. For many Black Loyalists, shared Mi'kmaq knowledge was key to survival in the first winters. Reparations for injustice is the path forward.*

NOW, THEREFORE *I do hereby proclaim the year 2022 as the “230th ANNIVERSARY – YEAR OF BLACK LOYALIST EXODUS 15 SHIPS TO SIERRA LEONE #1792 PROJECT” on the HOMELANDS of the Lekwungen speaking SONGHEES AND ESQUIMALT PEOPLE in the CITY OF VICTORIA, CAPITAL CITY of the PROVINCE of BRITISH COLUMBIA.*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, *I hereunto set my hand this 28th day of July, Two Thousand and Twenty-Two.*

LISA HELPS
MAYOR
CITY OF VICTORIA
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Sponsored by:
#1792 Project