

SIR JOHN A MACDONALD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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September 11, 2022

Mayor Helps
Mayor, City of Victoria
Lekwungen Territory
LHelps@victoria.ca

Dear Mayor Helps:

Re: Sir John A Macdonald Statue

I am writing in an effort to conclude an arrangement which will return the subject statue to those who donated it to the City of Victoria many years ago. We understand why the statue was removed from its plinth located near the entrance of City Hall and we are appreciative of the time and thought that has been invested by yourself, the various First Nations involved in the Reconciliation process, and other city officials as you have considered alternative sites for the statue. Our purpose in donating the statue was to commemorate John A Macdonald's service as the Member of Parliament representing Victoria in the Canadian Parliament of 1878 to 1882. For various reasons this commemoration is no longer a priority for the region and the statue is surplus to its needs.

Accordingly, we suggest the statue be returned to us on the following basis.

1. The City of Victoria will deliver the statue and its accompanying plinth to a designated storage facility in Ladner, B.C.
2. The Historical Society and the donors will not permit the statue to be displayed anywhere on Vancouver Island B.C. without the expressed approval of Victoria City Council and the local Nation (s) on whose territory the statue would stand.
3. Any public statements made by the Society, or the donors would be highly supportive of the reconciliation process. Such statements, if any are required, will be coordinated with Mayor of the City of Victoria and the Esquimalt and Songhees Nation's leadership.

4. It is the intention of the Society to safeguard the statue and not seek a place of public display.

5. If the Society allows the public display of the statue at some future time it will use its best efforts to include, with the statue, the fullest possible educational and contextual information concerning the individual portrayed, his time, his policies, and their consequences.

I hope those in authority will consider our Society's proposal positively.

Yours sincerely,

Sir John A Macdonald Historical Society

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael G Francis', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael G Francis

Chair Emeritus