



Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 26, 2023

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** October 20, 2023
From: Councillor Kim and Mayor Alto
Subject: Declaration of Ongoing Solidarity with Gender-Diverse Residents of Victoria

BACKGROUND

The City of Victoria has a commitment to diversity, inclusivity, and the protection of the rights and well-being of all its residents. Foundational to this commitment is the principle that an education that fosters understanding as a social condition is a necessity. The City recognizes that Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) education is an essential component of fostering understanding, empathy, and acceptance within Victoria.

The 2021 federal census revealed that the Greater Victoria region has the highest proportion of non-binary individuals, and the second highest proportion of transgender individuals. The census also found that younger respondents identified as non-binary or transgender at a rate higher than subsequent age brackets. Indeed, the City of Victoria's own Transgender, Non-Binary and Two-Spirit + Inclusion Action Plan (TNB2S+) was formed in 2019 to formally recognize and support TNB2S+ community members.

This motion denounces ongoing anti-SOGI mobilizations that seek to undermine the rights and dignity of transgender, non-binary and other gender-diverse individuals and their families, including culturally-specific gender identities. Transgender and non-binary youth are reported to experience harassment and violence in schools, with evident negative consequences on their wellbeing¹. Thus, this motion is also meant to underscore the importance of SOGI education to promote safety in schools and all public spaces.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Declares its unwavering support and solidarity with all gender-diverse individuals in our community;
2. Condemns any and all anti-SOGI mobilizations that seek to undermine the rights and dignity of gender-diverse individuals and their families within our city;
3. Reaffirms its commitment to promoting and supporting inclusive education that recognizes and respects the diversity of gender identities;

4. Encourages community dialogue and education to foster understanding and acceptance of gender-diverse individuals and families;
5. Calls on community leaders to denounce the attacks on transgender and gender-diverse individuals;
6. Will continue to work towards enacting policies and initiatives that protect and promote the rights of all residents, regardless of their gender identity; and
7. Urges all residents to be in solidarity with transgender and gender diverse community members, friends, and families by intervening in instances of anti-SOGI discrimination and by building welcoming communities that promote inclusion, understanding, empathy, and respect.

Respectfully submitted, in solidarity,



Councillor Kim



Mayor Alto