

“GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN WEEK”

- WHEREAS** September 10th 2017 is internationally recognized as Grandparents Day; and
- WHEREAS** it is estimated that in Canada more than 75,000 children are being raised by their grandparents and in BC more than 11,000 children; and
- WHEREAS** children being raised by their grandparents (or other kinship care givers) can face trauma caused by: parental death, incarceration, addictions, mental illness, abandonment, abuse or neglect, witnessing family violence, removal from their home; and
- WHEREAS** grandparents raising their grandchildren face grief, loss, isolation, judgment; lack of resources; and
- WHEREAS** grandparents raising their grandchildren face financial hardship and worry about how to continue to provide for their grandchildren should they become incapable of caring for them and after they die; and
- WHEREAS** despite these challenges, grandparents overwhelmingly say they “would do it all again”; and
- WHEREAS** research shows that there are many benefits to children being raised by relatives such as: the ability to maintain community and family attachments, the stability of cultural and spiritual identity, the lifetime sense of belonging; and
- WHEREAS** Parent Support Services Society of BC is holding their annual Grandparents Day Celebration in Oak Bay to celebrate these grandparents (and other kinship caregivers).

NOW, THEREFORE I do hereby proclaim the week of September 10-16, 2017 as **“GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN WEEK”** on the **TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES** of the **ESQUIMALT AND SONGHEES FIRST NATIONS** in the **CITY OF VICTORIA**, **CAPITAL CITY** of the **PROVINCE** of **BRITISH COLUMBIA**.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this 10th day of August, Two Thousand and Seventeen.

LISA HELPS
MAYOR
CITY OF VICTORIA
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Sponsored by:
Kristina Bergum
Parent Support Services
Society of BC