

Mayor Lisa Helps & City Council
City of Victoria
c/o 1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6

Dear Mayor Lisa Helps and City Council,

Victoria Faith in Action Committee would like to invite the City of Victoria to endorse The Earth Charter (earthcharter.org), completed in 2000 at UNESCO in Paris. The Charter was initiated by the United Nations and was carried forward and completed by a global civil society initiative, considering both local and global challenges.

“The Earth Charter Initiative is a global movement of organizations and individuals that embrace The Earth Charter and use it to guide the transition towards a more just, sustainable, and peaceful world.”

Cities all over the world have adopted the Earth Charter as a welcome directive for their everyday operations. Endorsing the Earth Charter can be a clear path of engagement with cities throughout the world as they move into the challenges facing the Earth community today.

The Mission of Earth Charter Cities (earthchartercities.org) is very inspiring and encouraging: “Driven by the Earth Charter, Earth Charter Cities inspires and supports people everywhere to create communities that are healthy, inclusive and sustainable. We are a collaborative movement, bringing together passionate amateurs, experts and organizations to inspire exponential improvements in key principle areas of the Earth Charter and Earth Charter Cities Manifesto.”

As you know, Faith in Action (FIA) is a group of people from diverse faith traditions and spiritual paths who are united by their concern for the poor and vulnerable in our province.

Our focus is to encourage governments and community groups to address the root causes of poverty in BC by creating systems of support that recognize the inherent dignity and worth of all citizens.

All who share this vision of a just and caring community are welcome to join us as we explore ways to promote transformative change and model the compassion we wish to see in the world. We care about the Earth Charter because through promoting The Earth Charter, we announce our support for a world where people can live in a sustainable environment in a just and peaceful world.

Some of our work in Faith and Action over the last year has included the following:

- Sept. 17th, 2015 Co Hosted Dignity for All Workshop with Fairfield United Church: Canada without Poverty, Citizens for Justice
- October 6th, 2015: Co -host All candidates Meeting with Downtown Service Providers, First Metropolitan United Church
- October, 2015 Chew on This Campaign:
- November 28-29th Metro Alliance Training Program;
- Met regularly to learn, share and take action
- Prepared print resources to assist faith communities in understanding the impacts of government policy decisions and legislation that directly impact the poor

We thank you for supporting many of our actions over the years.

As a committee we feel that The Earth Charter will not only support our work it will support the work of the City of Victoria. It will help our community become more engaged in such issues as poverty, climate change, and justice. As a committee, our focus is to encourage governments and community groups to address the root causes of poverty in BC by creating systems of support that recognize the inherent dignity and worth of all citizens. We believe The Earth Charter will help our community create such systems of support.

We would be happy to help you in what every way we can in endorsing the Earth Charter. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Gertie Jocksch, SC at gajocksch@gmail.com, 250-220-4601.

Thank you for your considerations,

Victoria Faith in Action Committee

Gertie Jocksch

4072 Chalister Court

Victoria, BC V9C 3X6

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