

“WRONGFUL CONVICTION DAY”

- WHEREAS** *the loss of one’s freedom due to a wrongful conviction is a major human rights issue that has far-reaching effects; and*
- WHEREAS** *the pernicious effects of wrongful convictions, including but not limited but not limited to personal, social, and legal cost devastate individuals and societies as a whole; and*
- WHEREAS** *wrongful convictions are serious miscarriages of justice that call into question the legitimacy, integrity and fairness of our criminal justice system, and unless corrected, undermine the trust of societies in their criminal justice systems; and*
- WHEREAS** *it is important to inform the broader community on the causes, consequences, and complications associated with wrongful criminal convictions; and*
- WHEREAS** *the prevention of injustice is a valuable service to the citizens of this community; and*
- WHEREAS** *Innocence Canada (also known as the Association in Defence of the Wrongly Convicted) is a national, non-profit organization dedicated to identifying, advocating for, and assisting individuals who have been wrongly convicted of crimes they did not commit, while also taking measures to prevent future wrongful convictions through awareness, education, and justice system reform; and*
- WHEREAS** *it is deemed desirable to designate one-day set aside for British Columbians and the public at large to recognize and pay special tribute those forced to endure the tremendous consequences brought by flaws within our justice system, and focus on and discuss the causes and remedies concerning wrongful convictions.*
- NOW, THEREFORE** *I do hereby proclaim Monday, October 2nd, as “WORLD CONVICTION DAY” 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 21st day of September, Two Thousand and Seventeen.*

**LISA HELPS
MAYOR
CITY OF VICTORIA
BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**Sponsored by:
Woojin Lim
Innocence Canada**



Committee of the Whole Report

For the Meeting of September 14, 2017

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** September 5, 2017
From: Chris Coates, City Clerk
Subject: Proclamation "Wrongful Conviction Day" October 2, 2017

RECOMMENDATION

That the Wrongful Conviction Day Proclamation be forwarded to the September 21, 2017 Council meeting for Council's consideration.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Attached as Appendix A is the requested Wrongful Conviction Day Proclamation. Council has recently established policy addressing Proclamation requests. The policy provides for:

- A staff report to Committee of the Whole.
- Each Proclamation request requiring a motion approved at Committee of the Whole prior to forwarding it to Council for their consideration.
- Staff providing Council with a list of Proclamations made in the previous year.
- Council voting on each Proclamation individually.
- Council's consideration of Proclamations is to fulfil a request rather than taking a position.

A list of 2016 and 2017 Proclamations is provided as Appendix B in accordance with the new policy. Consistent with City Policy, Proclamations issued are established as fulfilling a request and does not represent an endorsement of the content of the Proclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Coates'.

Chris Coates
City Clerk

Appendix A: Proclamation "Wrongful Conviction Day"
Appendix B: List of Previously Approved Proclamations