

“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



Committee of the Whole Report For the Meeting of August 3, 2017

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** July 24, 2017
From: Chris Coates, City Clerk
Subject: Proclamation "Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Week" September 10-16, 2017

RECOMMENDATION

That the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Week, September 10-16, 2017 Proclamation be forwarded to the August 10, 2017 Council meeting for Council's consideration.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Attached as Appendix A is the requested Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Week 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 blue ink signature of Chris Coates.

Chris Coates
City Clerk

Appendix A: Proclamation "Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Week"
Appendix B: List of Previously Approved Proclamations