

“HIV/AIDS AWARENESS WEEK, WORLD AIDS DAY, AND ABORIGINAL AIDS AWARENESS WEEK”

- WHEREAS** *HIV/AIDS is a global and local public health issue, having claimed more than 34 million lives worldwide so far; and*
- WHEREAS** *an estimated 75,500 Canadians are living with HIV, and an estimated 18,000 are living with HIV but remain undiagnosed; and*
- WHEREAS** *UNAIDS has called upon governments, organizations and individuals to recognize the day of December 1st, 2016 as WORLD AIDS DAY, continue to seek to eliminate new infections, deaths, and discrimination by 2030, and support the Hands Up For #HIV Prevention campaign; and*
- WHEREAS** *In places where the epidemic had stabilized or decreased, infection rates are increasing again, and homophobia, punitive laws, stigma, and gender-based violence are increasingly undermining efforts to improve services for key populations; and*
- WHEREAS** *The clock is ticking while lives are still being lost in the context of fiscal austerity and multiple global development challenges and building effective, equitable and sustainable HIV responses; and*
- WHEREAS** *To eliminate stigma, those affected and infected by HIV/AIDS in our communities need the collective support of Canada’s federal, provincial, and municipal governments and its public through evidence of rights-based approaches.*

NOW, THEREFORE I do hereby proclaim the week of November 24th – December 1st, 2016 as **“HIV/AIDS AWARENESS WEEK”**, December 1st, 2016 as **WORLD AIDS DAY**, and December 1st to December 5th, 2016 as **ABORIGINAL AIDS AWARENESS WEEK** in the **CITY OF VICTORIA**, **CAPITAL CITY** of the **PROVINCE of BRITISH COLUMBIA**, the **TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES** of the **ESQUIMALT AND SONGHEES FIRST NATIONS**.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this 24th day of November, Two Thousand and Sixteen.

LISA HELP
MAYOR
CITY OF VICTORIA
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Sponsored by:
Dawn Clouthier, Board Chair
Craig Dales, Executive Director
VPWAS