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Department of History

Councillor Ben Isitt  
Victoria City Council  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square,  
Victoria B.C.

Dear Councillor Isitt,

I am writing to add my voice to your petition to City Council requesting the City of Victoria's endorsement of a clemency request for Leonard Peltier. As a professional historian with a focus on settler-Indigenous relations I have been aware of the Peltier case for a very long time. Unbiased observers who have reviewed the Peltier case have repeatedly concluded that he did not get a fair trial and that much of the evidence connecting him to the death of two FBI agents was a result of biased police work intent on getting a conviction at any cost. Amnesty International, the UN High Commission on Human Rights, the European Parliament and many others have come to this same conclusion.

Peltier is an American, in an American jail and as individual Victorians we have little influence. But as the united citizens of one of Canada's major cities we do have the power to influence our national government, which, as we have just seen with the release of Kevin Garratt from a Chinese jail, can influence other governments when an injustice has been clearly done. We can make a difference if we act together.

Sincerely,

John Lutz, professor