

'CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH'

- WHEREAS** *Child Abuse Prevention Month began in 1983 to raise awareness of the alarming rates at which children were being abused and neglected; and*
- WHEREAS** *Child abuse is defined as any physical, sexual, or emotional mistreatment or neglect of a child, and is a criminal offence, regardless of gender, cultural background and socio-economic status; and*
- WHEREAS** *Every child deserves to grow up in a healthy, safe and nurturing environment; and*
- WHEREAS** *Child abuse continues to be one of our nation's most serious health problems. Studies have shown child abuse and neglect causes psychological, emotional, and physical harm which can create lifelong problems for victims of abuse; and*
- WHEREAS** *Child abuse and neglect impacts our entire society and our society's future; and*
- WHEREAS** *Child abuse prevention is a community responsibility and finding solutions depends on the involvement of all people; and*
- WHEREAS** *this month, we emphasize the importance of understanding the devastating problem of child abuse and neglect, and commit to learn more about the behavioural and physical signs of possible abuse.*

NOW, THEREFORE I do hereby proclaim the month of April 2016 as "**CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**" in the **CITY OF VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA**, the **TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES** of the **ESQUIMALT AND SONGHEES FIRST NATIONS**.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this 14th day of April, Two Thousand and Sixteen.

LISA HELPS
MAYOR
CITY OF VICTORIA
BRITISH COLUMBIA

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