

"NATIONAL HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY"

WHEREAS December 21st is the first day of winter and the longest night of the year; and

WHEREAS the winter poses severe hardship for homeless, unsheltered and inadequately housed low-income women, men and children in Victoria; and

WHEREAS stigma towards people who are homeless in our community undermines homeless persons' efforts to fully participate in our community; and

WHEREAS reducing homelessness contributes to a better quality of life and a safer community for everyone; and

WHEREAS local, regional and national research has shown that adequate housing and a range of support services are integral to successful health promotion, and the well-being of individuals, families and the community; and

WHEREAS people who experience homelessness have poorer health, shorter life expectancy and often lack access to health services; and

WHEREAS in Article 25(1) of its Universal Declaration of Human Rights the United Nations has affirmed that housing is a human right; and

WHEREAS December 21st has been designated National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day by the US National Coalition for the Homeless, and is so recognized by cities around the world; and

WHEREAS December 21st falls within traditional seasons of generosity and sharing; and in these seasons of generosity Victoria residents are disposed to commit themselves to promoting compassion and concern for all our brothers and sisters, especially those who are homeless; and

WHEREAS the spirit of these traditional holiday seasons encourages charitable giving and provides an opportunity for a renewed commitment to end homelessness; and

WHEREAS in remembering those who have died on the streets, the cause of ending homelessness is kept urgent, as is Victoria's collective commitment to preventing any such deaths in the future;

BE IT RESOLVED THEREFORE, in recognition of the people who have died homeless in and around Victoria, that Victoria City Council hereby asks all our residents to take a moment of silence in remembrance on December 21st; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THEREFORE that Victoria City Council encourages our residents to support and participate in all local efforts to eliminate homelessness in our community.

NOW, THEREFORE I do hereby proclaim the day of December 21st, 2015 as **"HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY"** 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 10th day of December, Two Thousand And Fifteen.

LISA HELPS
MAYOR
CITY OF VICTORIA
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Sponsored By:
Victoria Committee to
End Homelessness
and Councillor Marianne Alto