

**“INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DIVERSABILITIES”**

**WHEREAS** *more than one billion people – about 15 per cent of the world’s population – live with some form of disability; and*

**WHEREAS** *around the world, persons with a range of disabilities face physical, social, economic and attitudinal barriers that exclude full and effective participation as equal members of society; and*

**WHEREAS** *evidence and experience show that when barriers to inclusion are removed and persons with disabilities participate fully in societal life, the entire community benefits; and*

**WHEREAS** *the UN General Assembly has promoted an International Day of Persons with Disabilities since 1992, with this year’s theme being, “Inclusion Matters; access and empowerment for people of all abilities”; and*

**WHEREAS** *“Diversability” is a word that an increasing number of people across British Columbia are using to more accurately describe the abilities of people with developmental disabilities.*

**NOW, THEREFORE** *I do hereby proclaim the day of December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 as “INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DIVERSABILITIES” 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 26<sup>th</sup> day of November, Two Thousand and Fifteen.*

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**LISA HELPS  
MAYOR  
CITY OF VICTORIA  
BRITISH COLUMBIA**

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Sheenagh Morrison  
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