



Council Member Motion

For the Meeting of January 4, 2018

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** December 27, 2017

From: Mayor Lisa Helps, Councillor Marianne Alto and Councillor Charlayne Thornton-Joe

Subject: Witness Reconciliation Program

BACKGROUND

After thoughtful conversation with local First Nations, and learning from the Nations' traditions, the City embarked on a Witness Reconciliation Program.

The Program's core is a City Family, reflecting the heart of Indigenous values and decision-making, and includes members of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, Indigenous community members, and members of Victoria City Council. The Family gathers to share food, stories and begin the relationship and trust building that is the foundation of the City's journey of Reconciliation.

In three Gatherings to date, Family members have shared personal dreams and collective ideas that are beginning to imagine actions the City and Nations can take together. Ideas continue to evolve organically, and have included opportunities in learning, symbols, art, storytelling, and experiential occasions, to name a few. Gatherings have been set regularly throughout 2018. Two additional members will be joining the Family in January, from Esquimalt and Songhees Nations.

As the heart of the Program, the Family has begun a deep conversation to nurture the agile and evolving process that is working to make the culture, history, and modern reality of local Indigenous Peoples present and apparent throughout the City, and valued in our residents' everyday lives.

As a City, we are committed to this work, and, in collaboration with our Indigenous partners, we continue to take the time and path it needs.

We imagine that the conversations will lead to some concrete actions and opportunities in 2018. It is important to have a budgetary amount set aside to be able to respond through the year. All items proposed by the Family will go to the Songhees and Esquimalt Chief and Council as well as to the City of Victoria Council for input and discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "L. Helps".

Mayor Helps

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M. Alto".

Councillor Alto

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charlayne Thornton-Joe".

Councillor Thornton-Joe