

# Proclamation

## “VICTORIA, BC – A GLOBAL LEARNING CITY”

**WHEREAS** *Victoria recognizes and celebrates our wealth of human resources, as a place where people of all ages, with diverse experiences, backgrounds, cultures, talents and knowledge, can contribute to and co-create a city in which all our citizens thrive; and*

**WHEREAS** *Victoria has a strong social will to learn, grow, and harness the abilities of all its citizens, and where we have long demonstrated that learning embraces more than formal educational activity: numerous community groups have used learning to transform local conditions by engaging community members to study and define the problems that affect them, to create new visions, to decide upon solutions, and to implement change; and*

**WHEREAS** *Victoria provides a unique spectrum of life-long learning opportunities, that taken together support full human development: from preschools through post-graduate training, from trade schools to professional schools to international training institutes, from aboriginal led education providers through to formal college and University of Victoria programs, from martial arts training clubs to schools of dance, from eco-tourism opportunities to private academies of digital design, from mentorships in business practice to apprenticeships in the culinary arts, from the rich learning traditions and values of the myriad faith and ethnic communities to the Songhees Lifelong Learning Centre and partnerships with Camosun College, from tourist heritage walking tours to guided visits to the Provincial Legislature, from intercultural festivals to open-air symphony concerts, from voluntary associations for environmental stewardship to those seeking world peace and justice, from elder hostels to international student home-stays, from places of worship to parks, sports facilities, and gardens for recreation and quiet reflection; and*

**WHEREAS** *the City, which in 2005 was designated a cultural capital, hosts and supports a range of major cultural institutions specializing in the study and enjoyment of arts and culture such as the Victoria Conservatory of Music, the Victoria College of Art, the Royal British Columbia Museum, the Native Friendship Centre, the Maritime Museum of British Columbia, and the Greater Victoria Public Library; and*

**WHEREAS** *Victoria has a rich history as a centre of learning from the early traditions of the local First Nations through to creation of the British colonies' first library, Literary Institute, Scientific Institute, Y.M.C.A., Philharmonic Society, and Agricultural and Horticultural Society, and the founding of the province's influential teaching institutions such as St. Ann's Academy, Victoria College of McGill University, and the Provincial Normal School, and also agencies of personal and social enrichment such as the Victoria Carnegie Library; and*

**WHEREAS** *Victoria is rich in educational institutions with a strong commitment to learning, including an excellent public school and post-secondary system, and extensive private schooling opportunities for learners of all ages, promoting not only universal literacy and numeracy and knowledge and skills acquisition, but also social responsibility and participation, and recognition of the importance of cultural diversity; and*

**WHEREAS** *City Council has identified the theme, cultural and social focus for the rejuvenation of Downtown, in particular for the development of a "Learning Precinct" to anchor educational, cultural, and other learning services in the urban core; and*

**WHEREAS** *Victoria is in a position to become a global leader in developing our social and human capital, by using lifelong learning as an organizing principle to promote social cohesion and growth within and between the five key sectors: government, public (i.e. libraries, health and social agencies, etc), economic, education, and voluntary; and*

**WHEREAS** *we recognize and celebrate our potential to form dynamic inclusive partnerships, engaging learners and participants in strengthening the quality of community locally, throughout Canada, and around the world; and*

**WHEREAS** *THE CITY OF VICTORIA THEREFORE URGES our citizens and visitors alike to celebrate learning in all its forms; we commit to assisting individuals, organizations and businesses in the sharing of expertise, skills and culture; we further commit to fostering civic policies and practices that model what we wish for all; and we call upon everyone to ignite a passion for learning and achievement.*

**NOW, THEREFORE** I do hereby proclaim Victoria B.C., as “A GLOBAL LEARNING CITY” in the **CITY OF VICTORIA, CAPITAL CITY** of the **PROVINCE** of **BRITISH COLUMBIA**.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I hereunto set my hand this 12<sup>th</sup> day of May, Two Thousand and Five.

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**ALAN LOWE**  
**MAYOR**  
**CITY OF VICTORIA**  
**BRITISH COLUMBIA**