



VICTORIA  
RECONCILIATION  
DIALOGUES

DIALOGUE 7

# Nétsamaát: Going Forward Together

**September 12, 2022**



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# Calls to Action



# Acknowledging the Lands and Waters

- Recognize lək'wəŋən names of particular regions or places within what is now called the City of Victoria.
- Acknowledge and consider lək'wəŋən heritage at the same time the City of Victoria's heritage is acknowledged and considered.
- Remediate the health of the Gorge waterway and Inner Harbour.
- Establish areas of Victoria that acknowledge the lands and waters as living entities with rights and privileges.
- Establish programs that enable City Council and City staff to learn about historical lək'wəŋən uses of and practices with local lands and water.
- Use or include lək'wəŋən place names on site signage, and develop public acknowledgements of current and historical lək'wəŋən leaders.



## Lək'wəŋən Teachings

- Ensure that the voices of lək'wəŋən Elders, Knowledge Keepers and Youth are included in reconciliation recommendations.
- Ensure history, recognition of lands, stories, language, and presence is included in artistic lək'wəŋən and architectural expressions of Victoria, and in city planning.
- Acknowledge the legitimacy of lək'wəŋən oral history.
- Develop public acknowledgements of current and historical leaders amongst lək'wəŋən people.
- Provide adequate funding (full funding or enough to enable matching funding) to the Nations to catalyze the longhouse build atop Migan/Beacon Hill.
- Urge the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority to work with the Nations to revisit an Indigenous village/historic visitor opportunity at Ogden Point.



## Lək'wəŋən Language

- Ensure that Council and City staff have access to local Indigenous language resources currently available and that the Mayor is able to provide greetings in the lək'wəŋən language.
- Establish a lək'wəŋən language learning app so that public presenters, local and visiting, can properly pronounce “Lekwungen” and other local words necessary in territory acknowledgements.



# Relationship or Leadership Agreements

- Enshrine the City Family as an ongoing responsibility of the City.
- Ensure the continuation of Reconciliation Dialogues, beginning with one that focuses on lək'wəŋən children and youth.
- Develop a Memorandum of Understanding, related to governance, relationship, and culture, with Songhees and Esquimalt Chiefs and Councils.



# Questions for Discussion

1. Why does the City Family matter?
2. Which of the Calls to Action you've heard so far jump out at you as exciting or intriguing? Why?
3. How can the Victoria community as a whole come together to respond to these Calls to Action?



# Indigenization and Decolonization (1)

- Establish a requirement that new Council and senior staff participate in a process, such as the Kairos Blanket exercise, to learn about the truth elements of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.
- Ensure that local media has information about the work the City of Victoria is doing with lək'wəŋən people and why.
- Revise these Charges as needed as the City travels its journeys of Reconciliation, in conversation with the City Family.
- Establish opportunities, focusing on lək'wəŋən ways of doing and being, for Council members and staff to learn how to Indigenize their professional practices.





## Indigenization and Decolonization (2)

- Organize presentations and smaller dialogues between City Family members and Council members and senior city staff who are not part of the City Family.
- Establish Indigenous-focused anti-racism training for Council members and staff.
- Include information and training about the City's commitment to Indigenous relationships in orientations or onboarding processes for new Council members and city staff.



## City Council Practices (1)

- Advocate to the Province to allow municipal governments to engage with First Nations or other groups of Indigenous people in camera, i.e., in closed meetings.
- Ensure that lək'wəŋən and other Indigenous peoples' needs are not being used to advance agendas that have nothing or little to do with reconciliation.
- Encourage, at school district, provincial and federal levels, the establishment of a lək'wəŋən – focused school or schools, and support lək'wəŋən programs in public schools across Victoria.
- Support lək'wəŋən business and entrepreneurial initiatives.



## City Council Practices (2)

- Meet with other governments, particularly local municipal governments, to share the story of Victoria's relationship process with local Indigenous peoples.
- Set expectations for City Councillors' actions, observance, and knowledge of lək'wəŋən history, cultures and practices.
- Implement and resource the recommendations that arise from the Indigenous Relations Function research and investigation work.
- Make the Reconciliation Grant a permanent part of the city's operational budget, indexed to inflation.



# Hy'sx'qe Siam