VICTORIA, BC – A day of celebration in Centennial Square will mark the City of Victoria’s 150th anniversary of incorporation on Thursday, August 2, 2012. The media is invited to attend the Special Council Meeting at Victoria City Hall, the 150th Anniversary Ceremony at Spirit Stage, followed by the 150Forward Community Celebration in Centennial Square.

Special Council Meeting (9:40 a.m. – 11 a.m.)
Victoria City Hall
Dignitaries and special guests have been invited to attend this ceremonial meeting, which will begin with a welcome outside the Pandora Avenue entrance of City Hall with a performance by the Sheung Wong Kung Fu Club Lion Dancers. Introductions, a First Nations blanket ceremony, guest book signing, and a piped Procession to Council Chambers will follow. The Special Council Meeting will include a poetry reading, interfaith blessing, commemorative book presentation, and a Special Resolution. The start of the 150th Anniversary Ceremony will be signified by a Procession to Spirit Stage at 11 a.m.

150th Anniversary Ceremony (11 a.m. – Noon)
Spirit Stage, Centennial Square
Festivities in Centennial Square will begin with the official 150th Anniversary Ceremony with Victoria City Council, dignitaries and special guests. The event will include a welcome by the Fanfare Trumpets of the Naden Band, a Town Crier Proclamation, a First Nations blessing, an address by His Honour, The Honourable, Steven L. Point Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, celebratory greetings and the unveiling of Canada Post’s commemorative envelope. Complimentary refreshments and cake will be served.

150Forward Community Celebration (Noon – 6 p.m.)
Centennial Square
An afternoon of family entertainment will kick-off at noon with the 150Forward Community Celebration. The community will have the opportunity to record a message for the future at the Victoria 150 Time Capsule; take a free tour of the City Hall clock tower; enjoy free 150th souvenir give-aways; interact with costumed performers; and bring an archival Victoria photo for the “Living Wall” and a camera for fun photo opportunities. Festivities will include kids’ activities, interactive displays, and the opportunity to meet representatives from Victoria’s Twin Cities. Live music will be performed by Uminari Taiko, Kumbia, The Ecclestons, Victoria Chinese Culture Club, Wontanara, and Good for Grapes. The launch and free lecture of the commemorative book, Test of Time: The Enduring Legacy of Victoria City Hall will be presented by Donald Luxton of Victoria Civic Heritage Trust from 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. at City Hall. For more information, visit: www.victoria.ca/150forward

ATTACHED: Performer Bios -- 150Forward Community Celebration

For More Information:
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Performers Bios

150 Forward Community Celebration
Thursday, August 2, 2012
Centennial Square

Uminari Taiko (12:30 p.m.)
Uminari Taiko is Vancouver Island’s first taiko drumming ensemble. Its mission is to share and promote the art of Japanese taiko drumming through performance. Uminari is a Japanese word that can be translated as “roaring sea”, the sound of the crashing waves and the silence in between. It is a name that captures equally the essence of taiko and of our windy, wave-swept island.

Kumbia (1 p.m.)
Since the summer of 1988, the music of Kumbia has spiced up the lives of the people in southern British Columbia with their hot mixture of Afro-Caribbean rhythms -- so infectious that no foot can stay still when they start playing their variety of cumbias, socas, merenques, cha-chas, rumbas and batucadas. Flute, guitar and trumpet melodies ride on a high-energy percussion atmosphere. The members bring a south-north and past-present blend of musical experiences as diverse as Canada and its cultural heritage.

The Ecclestons (2 p.m.)
For over a decade, this trio of brother and sister Kelt and Colleen Eccleston and their “adopted brother” multi-instrumentalist, Greg Madill, have been captivating audiences with their unique musicality, riveting original material, stunning harmonies and energizing stage presence. They are nomads of a sort all growing up all across Canada from Vancouver to Newfoundland and offering a vantage point rare in contemporary folk/pop music. Their joy of performing, sense of humour and purpose brings audiences everywhere to their feet and leaves them with a song in their heart. They have played across the Pacific Northwest at concerts, festivals, fairs and schools, and have recorded four CDs of both traditional and original music.

Victoria Chinese Culture Club (3 p.m.)
The Victoria Chinese Club is a non-profit Chinese performing arts organization run completely by volunteers. With over 50 members, it has three teams: the Children’s Ethnic Chinese Dance Team, the Adult Ethnic Chinese Dance Team, and the Fitness/Martial Art Dance Team. Its dancers range from seven year olds to 70 year olds, and are from all walks of life. The goals of the organization are contribution to the multicultural harmony of Victoria and enrichment of the cultural lives of its members as well as those in the larger Victoria community.

Wontanara (3:45 p.m.)
Wontanara Drum & Dance is a Victoria-based performance troupe and school led by Guinean Master Dancer and choreographer Mohamed Andre Duranteau. This dynamic group specializes in sharing and teaching traditional dances, rhythms and songs originating from Guinea, West Africa. Wontanara, which means “We are United” or “Come Together” in the Susu language of Guinea, is a true definition of the spirit of West African Drum and Dance culture and the driving force that makes Wontanara an unforgettable experience!

Good for Grapes (5 p.m.)
Good for Grapes formed in September 2010 after a group of friends took a trip to Victoria for some modest busking. Since the moment they stepped onto the ferry, they were an attraction. Drawing unexpected crowds, naturally this young and aspiring band took form; an original and talented five-piece group, with an array of harmonizing voices and instruments. Hailing from Vancouver, British Columbia, this folk/alternative act has been gaining momentum ever since they stepped into the music scene. Their live stage performance has evolved into an incredibly active, folk stomping, and inviting energy; always resulting in an extremely enthusiastic and involved audience.