



Annual New Year's Day Levee to Focus on Reconciliation

Date: Friday, December 30, 2016

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — The community is invited to the annual City of Victoria New Year's Day Levee on Sunday, January 1, 2017 from 10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Hosted by Victoria City Council, the New Year's Day Levee is a longstanding tradition that provides an opportunity for the public to meet members of Council and celebrate the New Year.

This year's event will focus on 2017 as the Year of Reconciliation. The event will include a proclamation reading along with the unveiling in Council Chambers of two, five-foot cedar carvings by First Nation artist Tom La Fortune.

"We look forward to working together with the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations on reconciliation initiatives in the coming year," said Mayor Lisa Helps. "Reconciliation begins with listening and deepening understanding and then it leads to action."

"Reconciliation means honouring the truth and reconciling the future. It is about respect, both self-respect for Aboriginal people and mutual respect among all Canadians. Reconciliation must become a way of life," said Songhees Nation Chief Ron Sam. "Songhees Nation welcomes the opportunity to work with the City throughout 2017 to nurture our current and future relationship, to take action in the spirit of reconciliation."

Esquimalt Nation Chief Andy Thomas welcomes the City's commitment to a year of truth-telling, reconciliation and meaningful action. "Esquimalt Nation expresses their openness to continue working with the City on a meaningful reconciliation process," said Chief Andy Thomas.

What: City of Victoria New Year's Day Levee
When: Sunday, January 1, 2017, from 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Where: City Hall Council Chambers, 1 Centennial Square

Refreshments will be served at the event. Free parking will be available at all City parkades and parking meters on New Year's Day. Please note that because of construction on Pandora Avenue, the accessible entrance to City Hall will be through Centennial Square.

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For More Information:

Mayor Lisa Helps
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