



## Victoria Gears Up to Welcome the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge

Date: Thursday, September 22, 2016

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – The City of Victoria is excited to welcome Their Royal Highnesses, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, for their upcoming tour of British Columbia and the Yukon. The Royal couple and their children are expected to arrive in Victoria on Saturday, September 24 and depart on Saturday, October 1.

A public welcome for the Duke and Duchess will be hosted by the Federal and Provincial Governments on Saturday, September 24 at approximately 5 p.m. on the lawn of the Parliament Buildings at Victoria's Inner Harbour.

The event will be an exciting opportunity for the public to see the Royal couple and offer them a warm welcome to the Capital City. Mayor Lisa Helps will represent Victoria along with Chief Andy Thomas from the Esquimalt Nation and Chief Ron Sam from the Songhees Nation, joining other dignitaries during the official welcome ceremony. The City of Victoria has gifted 50 12-inch Chrysanthemums to adorn the main stage at the public event.

In anticipation of the Royal visit, crews are busy relocating many of the City's hanging baskets to ensure that those in the areas where the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are expected to visit are of the highest quality. Many of Victoria's downtown flower beds are also being filled with new plantings in anticipation of the Royal visit.

### **What you need to know for Saturday, September 24:**

- Anyone travelling through the downtown and James Bay areas should allow themselves extra time to get where they need to go on Saturday, September 24 and to expect road closures and delays.
- Those planning to come downtown to take in the celebrations should consider taking transit, walking, cycling, or arrange to be dropped off a few blocks away from the Inner Harbour area. Transit users should be aware that transit routes and times may be impacted by higher volumes and road closures downtown.
- With large crowds expected, the public are advised to leave any unnecessary items such as backpacks, bags, and lawn chairs at home.
- Citizens are also reminded that under Transport Canada's authority, Victoria's harbour is considered an active flight zone for float planes and helicopters and is therefore designated a "no drone zone". Use of drones is strictly prohibited.

### **Parking Restrictions and Road Closures:**

Parking restrictions near the Parliament Buildings will begin at 6 a.m. Saturday, September 24. No parking zones will include Government Street from Wharf to Superior Street, Belleville Street from Oswego to Douglas Street, Menzies Street from Belleville to Superior Street, and Superior Street from Oswego to Government Street. Some parking restrictions will also be in place in the lower parking lot at Ship Point off Wharf Street.

Road closures will be in place on Saturday, September 24, beginning at noon. Road closures will include Wharf and Humboldt Streets between Courtney Street and Gordon Street, Government Street from Wharf to Superior Street, Belleville Street from Oswego Street to Douglas Street, and Menzies Street from Belleville to Superior Street. Traffic access will be limited to local traffic only on Wharf Street between Fort and Douglas Streets, Oswego Street between Belleville and Superior Streets and sections of Quebec, Kingston, and Superior Streets close to the Legislature Buildings (see attached map).

The visit by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge to Victoria is sure to be an exciting event for the community. The public should expect additional road closures and detours throughout the week to accommodate police escort vehicles and the Royal motorcade.

Up to date information about the Royal's visit to Victoria will be updated at [www.Victoria.ca](http://www.Victoria.ca). The full itinerary for the Royal visit is available on the [BC Office of Protocol website](#). Additional information is also available on the [Royal Family's website](#) and [Canadian Heritage's website](#).

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**\*Editors note – Map of road closures attached**

**For More Information:**

Questions specific to the City of Victoria's role in supporting the Royal visit can be directed to:

Rebecca Penz  
City of Victoria  
Office: 250.361.0263  
Cellular: 250.661.0085

All inquiries specific to the program and events for the Royal visit, as well as media access and accreditation, should be directed to the Provincial media contact:

Blair Phelps  
Director of Communications  
Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat  
Cell: 250.889.9726  
Blair.Phelps@gov.bc.ca