



**BACKGROUNDER:
VICTORIA RECONCILIATION DIALOGUES
SERIES OUTLINE**

The *Victoria Reconciliation Dialogues* is a six-part series of conversations that will enable the community to explore together what Reconciliation could look like on Lekwungen territory. Guided by members of Lekwungen Nations, Mayor Lisa Helps, members of City Council and special guests, the conversations will seek to build the community's knowledge and understanding of Reconciliation – what it is, why it is needed, and why community conversations about Reconciliation are important.

Dialogue #1: Lekwungen Knowledge and the Land

Monday, September 30, 2019 at 6 p.m. (Doors open at 5:30p.m.)

Victoria City Hall

Guided by: Florence Dick, Songhees Nation and Victoria City Councillor Marianne Alto

The first conversation, *Dialogue #1: Lekwungen Knowledge and the Land*, will introduce Reconciliation by drawing on the guidance of Lekwungen Elders and members about the land on which we live.

Dialogue #2: The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) and the City

Monday, November 18, 2019 at 6 p.m. (Doors open at 5:30 p.m.)

Victoria City Hall

Guided by: Brianna Dick and Mayor Lisa Helps

This conversation will provide an overview of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, known as UNDRIP, and will engage participants in reflecting on the UNDRIP as it relates to their own work and everyday lives, as well as to the work of the City in Reconciliation with the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations and urban Indigenous Peoples.

Dialogue #3: Newcomers to Canada and Reconciliation

Monday, January 20, 2020 at 6 p.m. (Doors open at 5:30 p.m.)

Victoria City Hall

Guided by: Carey Newman, Mayor Lisa Helps and Victoria City Councillor Sharmarke Dubow

This conversation will focus on what Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples means to newcomers to Canada, and will ask participants to consider their own responsibilities around Reconciliation.

Dialogue #4: Sir John A. Macdonald in Conversation

Monday, March 2, 2020 at 6 p.m. (Doors open at 5:30 p.m.)

Location TBA

Guided by: Dr. Cindy Blackstock, Officer, Order of Canada and Mayor Lisa Helps

This conversation will open with a theatrical presentation to introduce the complex life and work of Sir John A. Macdonald. Participants will be asked to consider the politics of, and appropriate context for, monuments to controversial historical figures, including the City of Victoria's Sir John A. Macdonald statue. **Note:** The purpose of the conversation is not to determine or debate the future home of the statue, but rather to help inform Council decision-making on next steps.

Dialogue #5: Community Response to the Victoria Urban Reconciliation Dialogues Event

Monday, May 4, 2020 at 6 p.m. (Doors open at 5:30 p.m.)

Victoria City Hall

Guided by: Janice Simcoe, Camosun College, Mayor Lisa Helps and Victoria City Councillor Marianne Alto

The Victoria Urban Reconciliation Dialogues will hold a regional gathering to discuss Reconciliation. This conversation will debrief and reflect on this event.

Dialogue #6: Our Shared Future

Wednesday, July 8, 2020 at 6 p.m. (Doors open at 5:30 p.m.)

Location TBA

Guided by: Brianna Dick, Rebecca Nelems, Associate, Cedar Trees Institute, University of Victoria, and Mayor Lisa Helps

The final conversation will be youth-led, asking participants to think about a shared future from the perspective of Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth. The conversation will be forward-looking, identifying community-generated, collaborative Reconciliation activities in which residents and the City of Victoria might engage in the future.

The City of Victoria is committed to Reconciliation. The *Victoria Reconciliation Dialogues* is a 2019 action in the City's *2019-2022 Strategic Plan* under the strategic objective "Reconciliation and Indigenous Relations".

For more information: victoria.ca/ReconciliationDialogues