



## *Victoria Reconciliation Dialogues Begin September 30* *Dialogue #1 – Lekwungen Knowledge and the Land*

Date: Tuesday, September 17, 2019

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — The public is invited to participate in the *Victoria Reconciliation Dialogues*, 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.

“We are convening the *Victoria Reconciliation Dialogues* in order for the community to have important conversations,” said Mayor Lisa Helps. “We’ll be talking about what it means to have built a city on someone else’s homelands, about newcomers and reconciliation, about the role of historical monuments like the Sir John A. Macdonald statue, and about youth envisioning our future.”

Over the next 11 months, the *Victoria Reconciliation Dialogues* will provide opportunities for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to come together to share their ideas and stories, and explore how we as a community can make the culture, history and modern reality of local Indigenous Peoples become present and apparent throughout the city, and understood and valued in people’s everyday lives.

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. Guided by Florence Dick of the Songhees Nation and Victoria City Councillor Marianne Alto, *Dialogue #1* will take place Monday, September 30 at 6 p.m. at Victoria City Hall. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m.

The format of the conversations will vary and may include storytelling, discussion and other forms of Indigenous learning. As the sharing of personal stories can trigger strong emotions, a counsellor will be on hand at each conversation.

The *Victoria Reconciliation Dialogues* series is free to attend and all are welcome. Free childminding will be available (up to two hours) and complimentary refreshments will be provided.

The series received \$10,000 in funding from the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation’s *Urban Communities Partnering for Reconciliation* pilot program. Facilitated by the Union of BC Municipalities, the pilot program supports events and activities that provide a time and place for dialogue to build on opportunities, support reconciliation efforts, resolve issues of common responsibility, interest or concern, and/or to advance tangible outcomes.

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 and to register to participate in some or all of the conversations, visit:  
[victoria.ca/ReconciliationDialogues](http://victoria.ca/ReconciliationDialogues).

## **BACKGROUND: Victoria Reconciliation Dialogues Series Outline**

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### **For More Information:**

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