



## Virtual Canada Day Celebration Planned for Victoria

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – With COVID-19 preventing large-group gatherings this summer, Victoria invites the community to gather virtually this year to celebrate Canada's 153rd birthday.

*Victoria's Canada Day*, an initiative of the City of Victoria presented in partnership with Canadian Heritage, will feature an impressive line-up of diverse, multicultural performances broadcast on CHEK, and streamed on the City's website and a range of online platforms on July 1 at 7 p.m.

"With everything we've been through as a city and a country so far this year, it's certainly going to be a Canada Day never to forget," said Mayor Lisa Helps. "Even though we can't physically be together, we will still be able to come together and celebrate Canada's diversity and its strength. We are excited to partner with CHEK, who will be broadcasting a one-hour, commercial-free Canada Day celebration for everyone to enjoy."

The virtual celebration will feature music and performances by local groups, including the Lekwungen Dancers, as well as crowd-sourced content from the community. People can contribute to the broadcast themselves by uploading a 20-second video conveying "What it Means to Me to be Canadian" or by singing "O Canada". Selected videos will be interspersed throughout the Canada Day special.

This year's *Victoria's Canada Day* is made possible through funding made available from Canadian Heritage's *Celebrate Canada* program.

"I would like to thank Canadian Heritage for making virtual events such as ours possible. COVID-19 doesn't mean we can't celebrate how fortunate we all are to call Canada home. As a city and country we strive for inclusivity so all of us can celebrate our own identities on July 1," said City Councillor and Canada Day Organizer Charlayne Thornton-Joe.

More details on the program line-up, performers and what's in store for *Victoria's Canada Day* will be announced in the coming weeks. For information on how to upload your video and to stay up-to-date on celebration plans, visit: [canadadayvictoria.ca](http://canadadayvictoria.ca).

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**For More Information:**

Bill Eisenhauer

Head of Engagement

City of Victoria

250.858.1061

[beisenhauer@victoria.ca](mailto:beisenhauer@victoria.ca)