



Join Us for *Victoria's Canada Day* Virtual Celebration

Date: Friday, June 26, 2020

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – The City of Victoria is excited to present *Victoria's Canada Day*, a virtual celebration. Join us on July 1 at 7 p.m. on CHEK for an impressive line-up of diverse, multicultural performances and community content. The one-hour, commercial free broadcast will also be streamed on canadadayvictoria.ca and the City of Victoria's You Tube channel.

Hosted by CHEK's Joe Perkins and Stacy Ross, *Victoria's Canada Day* will feature musical performances from an exciting local line-up, with a special performance by the *Lekwungen Traditional Dancers*.

"With everything we have experienced locally and as a country due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, this is a Canada Day we won't soon forget," said Mayor Lisa Helps. "Even though we can't physically be together on the Legislature Lawn, we can still come together virtually to celebrate Canada's diversity and its strengths.

What it means to live in Canada very much depends on personal experience, whether you're Indigenous, a newcomer, or have lived here for much or all of your life. Our virtual program aims to reflect the diversity of experiences in our country and in our city."

Crowd-sourced content will be interspersed throughout the show, with members of the community demonstrating "What it means to Me to be Canadian" and singing "O Canada".

An eclectic mix of local music will be showcased including Victoria's acoustic duo *Ocie Elliott*, comprised of Jon Middleton and Sierra Lundy; the soulful world sounds of Caleb Hart who grew up in Trinidad and Tobago; and the collective talent of *The Phatfunks* – a multi-member band that combines old-school funk, R&B, Hip-hop, and Jazz Fusion.

The one-hour special will also feature *Paint The Town Red*, a rap group forged from the Tsartlip Nation in the Wsanec territory comprised of Brian Sampson a.k.a YellowWolf, Thomas Paul a.k.a Barndawg, and Addie Elliott. Viewers will also enjoy the genre-bending pop/R&B sounds of *Fake Fake*, featuring Victoria-based artists Charlotte Hynds and Justin Campbell.

Victoria's Artist in Residence Kathryn Calder, a solo artist and a vocalist and keyboardist with indie rock group *The New Pornographers*, and Latin Grammy award winner Kuba Oms will also perform.

The musical extravaganza will round out with performances by the internationally-recognized violinist Sari Alesh, the vocal talents of singer/composer and founding member of *The Canadian Tenors* Ken Lavigne, and Chris Donison, a Canadian composer, librettist, conductor, pianist and founder/Artistic Director of Music by the Sea.

The virtual celebration will also feature members of Pacific Opera Victoria performing *Pop Up Opera*, featuring a soloist or duet accompanied by recorded tracks created by pianist Robert Holliston.

And there will be fireworks – footage from a past Symphony Splash.

“I would like to thank event partners Canadian Heritage, CHEK and Do250 for helping us bring the community together virtually to celebrate our country’s diversity and strength, the many talented performers for taking part, and all those who contributed a video to our *Victoria’s Canada Day* showcase,” said City Councillor and Canada Day Organizer Charlayne Thornton-Joe.

This year’s *Victoria’s Canada Day* is made possible by the Canadian Heritage *Celebrate Canada* program, which is providing \$50,000 in funding for the virtual event.

For performer bios and more information, visit: canadadayvictoria.ca.

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For More Information:

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