



## City Supports Songhees in their Treaty Negotiations

**Unceded Ləkʷəŋən territory, Victoria BC** – Today, Songhees Nation and the City of Victoria are pleased to celebrate an important next step toward return of Ləkʷəŋən land as part of Treaty negotiations.

In a show of support for the Songhees, City of Victoria has provided a formal letter of support for recognition of Songhees' Treaty Settlement Lands within City boundaries. Although the treaty negotiations with British Columbia and Canada continue, this represents a significant step in the Treaty process and in relations with First Nations governments.

“Today we celebrate and honour Mayor Helps and Council in their efforts to rebuild the relationship with the Songhees Nation,” said Chief Ron Sam. “We appreciate their support in our mission to negotiate return of our traditional lands in Ləkʷəŋən territory through Treaty, and for their unwavering commitment to working government-to-government with our leadership over the years. It is a truly historic day, and we look forward to continuing our respectful and valuable relationship to benefit all families who live in Victoria and the surrounding area.”

“The City of Victoria acknowledges that it is built on the homelands of the Ləkʷəŋən speaking peoples,” said Mayor Helps. “We welcome the opportunity to work towards decolonization and to address the wrongs of the past by supporting the Songhees Nation in their efforts to get some of their land back. We have a strong and deep relationship with Chief Sam and his Council that we value very much. It is this relationship that can lead to meaningful reconciliation between the City and the Songhees Nation to the benefit of their members and our residents.”

The Songhees Nation and the City of Victoria are committed to working together to reach an agreement that will see important reliable services provided to the Treaty Settlement Lands, and that will establish transparent processes to the benefit of both the residents of Victoria and the members of the Songhees Nation.

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