



Office of the Mayor
CITY OF VANCOUVER
 BRITISH COLUMBIA

Proclamation

"NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY"

- WHEREAS The City of Vancouver formally acknowledges that it is on the unceded traditional homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples;
- AND WHEREAS National Aboriginal Day (now National Indigenous Peoples Day) was declared on June 21st 1996 by the Governor General of Canada as an opportunity to honour, learn and reflect on the rich, diverse cultures of Indigenous Peoples and the unique heritage, traditions, and knowledge of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples;
- AND WHEREAS Since the confirmation of Le Estwicwéy (The Missing) at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School on May 23, 2022, it has been a time of reckoning with the truth of the Indian residential school legacy, with confirmations of hundreds of unmarked graves in communities across the country. We send our deepest sympathies to all Indigenous people who continue to experience the devastating impacts of Canada's Indian residential school system and remain committed to working with the local Nations to develop a permanent memorial in honour of all those impacted;
- AND WHEREAS Indigenous Peoples continue to face unacceptable racism, discrimination, and marginalization in Vancouver and across the country, we remain committed to upholding the Calls to Action identified by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and honouring the unique Indigenous rights enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- AND WHEREAS The City of Vancouver has a responsibility to examine its own role of occupying these lands and its own position within a fundamentally settler-colonial construct, we recognize that we are on a long journey to repair and make right our relations with Indigenous Nations and Peoples;
- AND WHEREAS The contributions of Indigenous Peoples to Vancouver's past, present and future are profound but often not well recognized and we commit to lifelong learning about Reconciliation and the profound ways that Indigenous residents have shaped our city's rich culture and vibrant communities;
- AND WHEREAS First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples make vital contributions to advancing arts, culture, equity, safety, and community wellbeing throughout the City of Vancouver, we recognize and acknowledge Candace Rose Thomas, a member of the solilwətal (Tsleil-Waututh) Nation and Coast Salish community who holds a deep connection to the Downtown Eastside. Inspired by her great-grandfather, the late Chief Dan George, Candy has dedicated herself to her artwork, which we proudly wear today for this year's National Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration at Carnegie Centre;
- AND WHEREAS The City of Vancouver is striving to be a City of Reconciliation, creating long-term, systemic change and new relations based on upholding Indigenous rights, mutual understanding and respect;
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ken Sim, Mayor of the City of Vancouver, on behalf of Vancouver City Council DO HEREBY PROCLAIM June 21st, 2023 as

"NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY"

in the City of Vancouver.

Ken Sim
 MAYOR

