



Lower Fraser Valley Aboriginal Society

- Lifting Indigenous Families Together for 20 years -

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**ADMINISTRATION DEPT
CITY OF LANGLEY**

November 20, 2019

Mayor Val van den Broek
Langley City Hall
20399 Douglas Crescent
Langley, BC V3A 4B3

HAND DELIVERED

Dear Mayor van den Broek,

Re: National Indigenous Peoples Day at Douglas Park

It has been a pleasure to get to know you during your first term in office as Mayor. Your support of our organization and of our community is noticed and appreciated.

I am writing to ask you for your help on a matter relating to the scheduling of City events as it relates to our community.

As you know, June 21st is National Indigenous Peoples Day, formerly known as National Aboriginal Day. National Indigenous Peoples Day (NIPD) is an official day of celebration to recognize and honour the heritage, cultures and valuable contributions to society by First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. This date is of great significance to our urban Indigenous families.

Every year for the last eight years, our non-profit society has hosted NIPD festivities at Douglas Park in Langley City. Through the amazing financial and in-kind support we receive from the City and others, we are able to host this important cultural event that brings together upwards of 500 of our urban Indigenous population from across the City, Township and beyond. Each year we invite Mayor and Council to participate and engage with our people, and we appreciate your attendance at our events. The event is open to all who want to celebrate and acknowledge Indigenous Culture through song, dance, art and food.

In recognition of the cultural significance of June 21st and the summer solstice, it is best if we hold our NIPD event on the Saturday nearest June 21st. Furthermore, one of our funders requires us to hold the event as close as possible to June 21st. Holding the event on a Saturday ensures greater accessibility for all and allows for the many volunteers, vendors, staff and participants to spend the day enjoying the event with their families. (Father's Day often falls on this weekend as well, so we avoid using the Sunday.)



Nonetheless, the City has been hosting its Annual Community Days Event at Douglas Park on the third Saturday of June. Unfortunately, that schedule often clashes with the optimal date for our NIPD Celebration.

In the spirit of Reconciliation and in building stronger relationships with Langley's Indigenous community, I would like to request that, for the upcoming year, we have access to Douglas Park on Saturday June 20th, 2020 for NIPD. Also, for future years, I would like to request that the City be mindful of National Indigenous Peoples Day and allow us continued access to Douglas Park for our celebration on the Saturday closest to June 21st.

If you would like to set up a time to discuss this please don't hesitate to call me directly at 778-316-8250. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Katie Pearson, CEO

Lower Fraser Valley Aboriginal Society