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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"
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Date: 3/6/2020 5:19:17 PM
Subject: Postponement of Nowruz Celebration at City Hall Cancelled

Dear Mayor and Council,

Nowruz is fast approaching and our External Relations and Protocol team has been working with a volunteer planning committee over a number of weeks to plan a Council hosted celebration at City Hall on March 23.

In the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak that has hit the Iranian community particularly hard, the planning committee advised staff that they do not wish to move ahead with a celebratory event this year. The committee wants to be sensitive to the many communities that celebrate Nowruz, and are mindful that many may feel apprehensive about attending events at this time. Other Nowruz celebrations across Canada and in the lower mainland are also being cancelled.

In lieu of an event, the planning committee suggested that the City still acknowledge Nowruz to promote its symbolic values of peace and solidarity, reconciliation and neighborliness, diversity and friendship. It is in this spirit that we are arranging to have a number of different acknowledgments as follows:

- A Haft-Seen table will be set-up in the third floor foyer starting Monday, March 9. A Haft-Seen table is a decorative table with items that are symbolic of Nowruz. Households that celebrate Nowruz typically have one set up in their home for the celebration.
- A pre-recorded video address from the Mayor will be posted on the City website and released through social media.
- A lobby poster will be set up on the main floor of City Hall with Nowruz greetings, and various internal communications will go out to all COV staff, and externally through social media.

While these efforts cannot replace the official Nowruz celebration, we hope they are received as respectable acknowledgements by the larger communities.

Sadhu Johnston

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Pronouns: he, him, his



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.