



Office of the Mayor  
CITY OF VANCOUVER  
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Proclamation

"EMANCIPATION DAY"

WHEREAS Between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century, an estimated 12.5 million Africans were forcibly removed from their homes, separated from their families and communities, transported as slaves to the Americas, Europe and Caribbean, and Black Canadians have been part of Canadian society for generations;

AND WHEREAS People of African descent and other Canadians have recognized and celebrated emancipation day since August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1834, when the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833 came into effect. In March 2021, the Government of Canada declared August 1<sup>st</sup> as Emancipation Day across Canada;

AND WHEREAS The City of Vancouver is committed to being the City of Reconciliation and acknowledges that we are located on the unceded ancestral territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh Nations. The City recognizes the historical relationship between Indigenous and Black communities, and is dedicated to strengthening relations between Indigenous, Black and People of Mixed Heritage by listening and learning from their histories, stories, struggles, and triumphs;

AND WHEREAS The City's commitment to address anti-Black racism is rooted in the United Nation's International Decade for People of African Descent 2015-2024, the City of Vancouver recognizes the historical and current work of local Black and African diaspora communities towards increasing public awareness of the impacts of slavery, erasure and discrimination, and the importance and necessity of redress;

AND WHEREAS The City acknowledges that anti-Black racism exists within the City and has impacted City planning, operations and services, both historically and currently. In 2022, City Council received an Interim Report on addressing anti-Black racism and historic discrimination where the Black community identified four priorities, including economic well-being and prosperity, addressing systemic anti-Black racism, improving City's impact on Black communities and creating culturally relevant and safe planning processes. In 2023, Council approved ongoing funding to support this work, a reflection of the importance of recognizing the impacts of anti-Black and advancing work to address it:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ken Sim, Mayor of the City of Vancouver, on behalf of Vancouver City Council DO HEREBY PROCLAIM Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 as

"EMANCIPATION DAY"

in the City of Vancouver.



Ken Sim  
MAYOR