



Office of the Mayor
CITY OF VANCOUVER
 BRITISH COLUMBIA

Proclamation

"EMANCIPATION DAY"

- WHEREAS Between the 16th and 19th 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 a part of Canadian society for generations;
- AND WHEREAS The City of Vancouver recognizes that People of African descent have been part of British Columbia's history since 1858; and this resilient community continues to contribute to the vibrant cultural, economic, political, and social development of the Province even in the face of the continued injustices of Anti-Black racism and colonization;
- AND WHEREAS People of African descent and other Canadians have recognized and celebrated emancipation day since...August 1, 1834 when the *Slavery Abolition Act of 1833* came into effect. In March 2021, the Government of Canada declared August 1st as Emancipation Day across Canada;
- AND WHEREAS We are located on the unceded ancestral territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and 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 UN General Assembly proclaimed 2015-2024 as the International Decade for People of African Descent, 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 of Vancouver acknowledges that anti-Black racism exists within the City and has impacted City planning, operations and services both historically and currently. To be accountable for its role, the City is seeking to build trust with Black and Africa diaspora communities in order to collectively address the legacy of slavery and anti-Black racism, which is still impacting communities today:
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kennedy Stewart, Mayor of the City of Vancouver, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM Monday, August 01, 2022 as

"EMANCIPATION DAY"

in the City of Vancouver.

Kennedy Stewart
 MAYOR

