



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## **Mayor and Council Proclaim April as Sikh Heritage Month at the City of Vancouver**

VANCOUVER, BC - Today, Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim and City Council proclaimed April as Sikh Heritage Month, highlighting the city's dedication to celebrating the vibrant Sikh community that enriches Vancouver's social fabric.

This marks the inaugural celebration of Sikh Heritage Month at the City of Vancouver. As part of the celebration, City Hall and the iconic Burrard Bridge will be illuminated in orange on April 13<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, following the initial lighting on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Additionally, the community gathered to celebrate with a Gatka demonstration by local traditional martial arts that dates back centuries, accompanied by freshly brewed cups of chai.

“Sikh Heritage Month provides us with a unique opportunity to honour the remarkable contributions of the Sikh community in Vancouver, celebrate their rich heritage and faith, and learn more about Sikh communities,” said Mayor Ken Sim. “The City of Vancouver takes great pride in recognizing and celebrating the vibrant cultures that make our city truly special.”

April also welcomes the celebration of Vaisakhi, one of the most important events in the Sikh calendar, celebrating the creation of the Khalsa in 1699. Vancouver's annual Vaisakhi Parade will be held tomorrow, on April 13<sup>th</sup>, as a cherished tradition that reflects the values of community, generosity, and inclusivity central to the Sikh faith.

The City of Vancouver invites residents and visitors to participate in the various events and initiatives planned throughout Sikh Heritage Month, fostering greater understanding, appreciation, and unity among all communities.

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