



Office of the Mayor
CITY OF VANCOUVER
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Proclamation
"PRIDE WEEK"

WHEREAS It is acknowledged that every person, regardless of their race, culture, creed, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation inherently deserves acknowledgment and respect for their fundamental human and civil rights, which are universally granted to all citizens in a free and democratic society;

AND WHEREAS The City of Vancouver has long been a pioneer in celebrating Pride and has benefited from the social, economic, and cultural contributions of the Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Gender Diverse and Intersex (2SLGBTQ+) communities;

AND WHEREAS The City of Vancouver acknowledges the significant progress made in the last fifty years since the decriminalization of homosexuality while also recognizing the present challenges faced by the global 2SLGBTQ+ population. These challenges include laws in certain countries that prohibit books in libraries featuring 2SLGBTQ+ individuals and the distressing rise of hostility towards drag performances, which collectively affect the community's freedom of expression and cultural inclusion;

AND WHEREAS In some countries, 2SLGBTQ+ individuals continue to face persecution, torture, imprisonment, or even the death penalty, and Vancouver is a place of refuge for 2SLGBTQ+ individuals fleeing their country and seeking sanctuary;

AND WHEREAS Diversity is recognized as one of our most essential strengths, and the City of Vancouver remains steadfast in its commitment to combating all forms of bigotry, including homophobia and transphobia, with the aim of fostering a more inclusive environment for the most equity-denied members within 2SLGBTQ+ communities;

AND WHEREAS Vancouver's Pride events bring together hundreds of thousands of residents and visitors each year to celebrate the uniqueness of 2SLGBTQ+ individuals, foster a sense of community and acknowledge collective achievements. Pride serves as a joyous commemoration of generations of 2SLGBTQ+ individuals who have displayed unwavering courage in the relentless pursuit of the right to live openly and authentically;

AND WHEREAS We are delighted to participate in the much-loved annual Pride Parade in downtown Vancouver and engage in programming that centers Queer, Trans, Black, Indigenous and People of Colour. Let us embrace this opportunity to open our hearts and minds, learn about and celebrate the unique and varied contributions of 2SLGBTQ+ communities to the richness of our city;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ken Sim, Mayor of the City of Vancouver, on behalf of Vancouver City Council, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM the period from July 28 to August 6, 2023, as

"PRIDE WEEK"

in the City of Vancouver.

Ken Sim
MAYOR

