



## AGENDA – WELCOMING CITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 5, 2023, 5:09 P.M.

Meeting conducted electronically via Microsoft Teams

The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt People

- PRESENT: Maureen Sawa in the Chair, Sandra Hough, Jibril Mohamed, Agnes Myhre, Daniela dos Santos Pinto, Florentien Verhage,
- ABSENT: Nora Butz, Cleia Sangster, Jerome Thomas, Kareece Whittle-Brown
- STAFF PRESENT: A. Galiev – Equity Diversity & Inclusion Lead, S. Mangué – Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator, S. Maichen – Legislative Coordinator
- GUESTS: Jennie Keeran - Let's Talk Health Society

### 1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Acting Chair Maureen Sawa called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m. Florentien Verhage acknowledged that the City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations communities.

### 2. Approval of Agenda

That the agenda be approved with the addition of item **D.3 - Let's Talk Health Society Presentation** under New Business and the remainder of the agenda be reordered accordingly.

### D. 3 Let's Talk Health Society Presentation

The Committee received a presentation from Jennie Keeran - Let's Talk Health Society regarding recommendations to make Victoria more connected using the Let's Talk program, a non-profit organization set out to encourage engagement in the community amongst individuals.

*Committee Discussed the following:*

- *The Lets Talk Live website's interests and outcomes*
- *Let's Talk providing an opportunity for English language learners to test out their skills*
- *Discussions with local media around the program*
- *Lets Talk's Hillside mall pilot project*

### 3. Welcoming City Implementation – Workshops Development Discussion

*Committee discussed the following:*

- *Financial literacy action plans*
- *Umbrella of equitable access workshop options*
- *Recommended action plans and presentations that the Welcoming City Committee would like to receive*
- *Outsourcing options for each topic and partnering with the agencies*
- *Having workshops in the meeting minutes so the task force can refresh during the committee*
- *Funding for the facilitators being in the budget (food, beverage, honorarium)*
- *Action plan implementation categories and the development of workshops within each*
- *The next meeting being with each agency, making sure to publicize the workshops to make sure people are participating*
- *Welcoming City implementation plan workshop series being a starting point for developing a plan for practical implementation plans*

#### **4. Committee Roundtable**

- Refugee readiness team and housing
- Housing expenses being difficult for refugees to move their families
- A crash course for kids about going to school in Canada (lesson plan involving words slang, expression that kids used in the playground)
- Educators taking cultural competencies for school so behaviours in children that could be looked at as defiant can be better understood

*M. Sawa left the meeting at 6:24 p.m.*

- Inter-cultural Association of Greater Victoria training program regarding opportunities for parents can learn about school systems and learn how to support their children
- School District orientation program for new students and parents

#### **5. Adjournment**

The Welcoming City Committee Meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.