



ESQUIMALT UNITED CHURCH
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May 1, 2019

Re: Developing a Reconciliation Plan for Esquimalt

Dear Members of Esquimalt Council,

The Esquimalt United Church Justice Team has been working for the past year in collaboration with Aboriginal Neighbours, the Anglican Diocese Reconciliation and Beyond Committee, KAIROS, as well as other partners, to strive to practice reconciliation in our community. We have based our work on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, consulting along the way with Jessica Sault from the Tsheshaht Nation. We are also developing relationships with the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations.

We have two educational workshops planned in the near future, to which we would like to invite members of council. They are:

- **Indigenous History and Spirituality**, with Jessica Sault, May 26, 1-3 pm (admission free, but registration required)
- **Drum Making**, with Sarah Rhude from the Mi'kmaq Nation, June 15, 9:30-12:30 + June 22, 9:30-11:30 (cost, including materials for the drum & sticks: \$250; registration required)

Another event, yet to be planned for the fall, is a community **Blanket Exercise** – a very powerful simulation on the history of contact in Canada, and its lasting effects. We would like to work with Esquimalt council and staff on planning this event for our community, and hope you can direct us how best to do this.

We believe that reconciliation matters, and it's important to move forward on the TRC Calls to Action. We look forward to being able to work together with Esquimalt Council on bringing about increased reconciliation in Esquimalt.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zsuzsa Harsman Susan Gage". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Zsuzsa Harsman, Susan Gage, Elaine Hooper
For the Esquimalt United Justice Team