

VICTORIA URBAN RECONCILIATION DIALOGUE

Hosted through the Victoria Native Friendship Centre, TheDialogue@VNFC.ca

Her Worship Mayor Barbara Desjardins
Township of Esquimalt
1229 Esquimalt Road
Esquimalt, BC V9A 3P1

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT		
For Information:		
<input type="checkbox"/> CAO	<input type="checkbox"/> Mayor/Council	
<input type="checkbox"/>		
RECEIVED: JAN 27 2020		
Referred: <i>Rachel</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> For Action	<input type="checkbox"/> For Response	<input type="checkbox"/> COTW
<input type="checkbox"/> For Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Agenda	<input type="checkbox"/> IC

January 23, 2020

Re: Victoria Urban Reconciliation Dialogue Gathering, February 28-29, 2020

Dear Mayor Desjardins:

The Victoria Urban Reconciliation Dialogue (VURD) is hosting a gathering at Saanich Fairgrounds in February 2020. We acknowledge the Saanich Fairgrounds sit on the traditional territory of WJOLELP (Tsartlip First Nation), who together with their WSÁNEĆ family, remain deeply connected to this land.

The VURD Feb2020 Gathering will be the culmination of two years of dialogue and relationship building across the complex and diverse urban landscape of Victoria and greater area.

We are honoured to request your presence at the Feb2020 Gathering and offer you two (2) free seats so you and a colleague can attend.

Here is a high-level overview of the Gathering:

Friday, February 28, 2020	3pm-5pm	Networking & Interactive Happenings
	5pm-6:30pm	Opening Ceremonies
	6:30-8:30pm	Discussion Panel <i>Moderator Shelagh Rogers</i>
Saturday, February 29, 2020	9am-2:30pm	Workshops
	2:30pm-5pm	Plenary Presentations
	5pm-6pm	Closing Ceremonies



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This Community Gathering will build from previous Advisory Panel Gatherings; November 2018, 40 Advisors, February 2019, 85 Advisors. This time we will gather 300 Advisors representing community service agencies, First Nations, Metis Nation, school districts, police departments, health authority, post-secondary institutes, all levels of government (federal, provincial, regional, municipal), and urban Indigenous community including Elders, artists and youth.

An Event Plan is attached that furthers describes the Feb2020 Gathering. Please **RSVP** online by **Monday, February 10, 2020** by following this link: <https://forms.gle/wvn7Qx9eJCg4oci98>. If you have any questions or would like to make changes to your RSVP, please contact TheDialogue@vnfc.ca.

Sincerely,

Ron Rice



VURD Co-Chair
Executive Director,
Victoria Native Friendship Centre

Stuart Gale



VURD Co-Chair
Coastal Regional Executive Director,
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Attachment

VICTORIA URBAN RECONCILIATION DIALOGUE

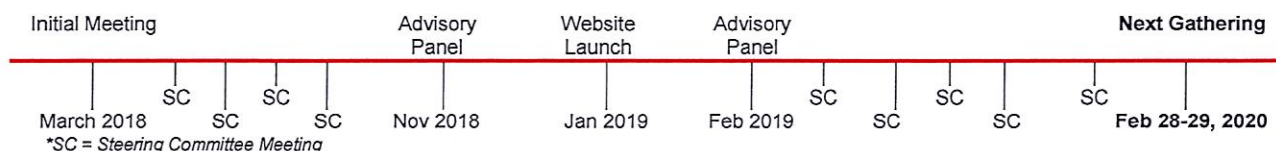
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VURD FEB2020 Gathering EVENT PLAN

Background

On March 29, 2018, representatives from urban Indigenous organizations, government and community gathered at the Victoria Native Friendship Centre (VNFC) to engage in a dialogue about reconciliation in Victoria and area. This group now acts as a Steering Committee for the Victoria Urban Reconciliation Dialogue (VURD), an initiative hosted by VNFC. The process reflects a sectoral and grassroots approach where the ultimate accountability is to the urban Indigenous community and their allies.

The VURD Steering Committee meets regularly and has hosted two Advisory Panel Gatherings, bringing together 40 people in November 2018 and 85 people in February 2019, from various organizations and relevant sectors. VURD also has a Working Group which acts as the secretariat and project office. More information can be found at www.TheDialogueVictoria.ca, or email TheDialogue@vnfc.ca.



Purpose of VURD Feb2020 Gathering

Four main purposes have been identified for the Gathering:

1. **Grow the Circle:** Build and strengthen relationships through networking and shared cultural and educational experience designed to connect 300 people.
2. **Learn About Reconciliation:** Grow our shared understanding of what reconciliation means in this place at this time, what people/organizations are doing to advance it, and what else we can do moving forward together.
3. **Co-Create a Blueprint:** Dialogue about the *Draft Reconciliation Blueprint for Victoria and Area*, shaped from knowledge gathered at two previous Advisory Panel Gatherings.
4. **Inspire/Garner Support:** Cultivate commitment to *Draft Reconciliation Blueprint*, through strong communication tools, methodical processes and interactive facilitation.



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Invitations and RSVP Deadline

The capacity for the Gathering is 300 delegates. Registration is free, but by invitation. First round invitations include the list of previous Advisory Panel participants enhanced by urban Indigenous community participants recruited through key agencies and partners.

The RSVP deadline for invitations is **Monday, February 10, 2020**. After this date, all unclaimed seats will be redistributed to other community members on the waitlist. If you would like to register more people than seats provided, you can add people to the waitlist by emailing TheDialogue@vnfc.ca.

VURD

The name Victoria Urban Reconciliation Dialogue was chosen with certain intentions but should be interpreted with the greatest scope possible. The place name **Victoria** is a geographic anchor but it is clear this conversation reaches across the South Island. The term **Urban** isn't meant to exclude on-reserve populations, just acknowledge that only Nations can guide reconciliation on reserve and we are supporting the urban spaces in between.

We encourage those living on-reserve to participate because they are the local stewards of the territory and we need that voice and perspective in all reconciliation work.

Reconciliation Blueprint

An important aspect of the Gathering will be encouraging and tracking dialogue about the *Draft Reconciliation Blueprint for Victoria and Area*. The Blueprint will outline our shared mission, values, priorities, and ways of measuring our success. It will also identify specific commitments for VURD to move reconciliation forward in Victoria and area. The goals and commitments will be based on the information gathered at the two former Advisory Panel Gatherings. It is essential we present what we heard back to the Advisory Panel members to ensure their input and perspectives are being honoured and accurately represented.



Sponsorship and Donations

As an initiative hosted by the Victoria Native Friendship Centre, a non-profit and charity, resourcing is an ongoing challenge and need. If you would like to make a donation to VURD, or consider sponsorship of the Feb2020 Gathering, we would be happy to discuss the opportunities, TheDialogue@vnfc.ca. A sponsorship package for the Gathering is available for interested parties.