

Landscapes of Injustice



Mayor and Council
Township of Esquimalt

July 21, 2021

Dear Mayor and Council,

We were pleased to provide a presentation to Council on June 28th, 2021 regarding proposed historical displays at the Esquimalt Gorge Park Pavilion. We would like to submit a formal request to the Township for Stage 2 of the grant application for the project with which that initiative is associated, Past Wrongs, Future Choices. Having succeeded in receiving a Stage 1 seed grant from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada, we are now invited to submit the full Stage 2 proposal in fall 2021. A letter of support is required from the Township for phase two of the grant application. The letter is due in September and should indicate the Township's grant commitments and support for the term of the grant agreement.

The proposed grant will fund:

- Research, design, fabrication, and installation of an interpretive panel on the 'Display Wall' in the Lobby of the Esquimalt Gorge Park Pavilion
- Research, design, fabrication, and installation of 3 temporary interpretive displays for program exhibitions (3-6 months) in or around Esquimalt recreational facilities and/or around the Esquimalt Gorge Park Pavilion
- Research, design, fabrication, and installation of 3 Garden Interpretive Panels for installation in the Gorge Park Japanese Gardens
- Support a commitment to participate creatively to find opportunities for programming and events to enhance the above physical installations

All interpretive materials will be developed by an expert committee convened by the PWFC project, including a representative of the Takata family, a representative of the Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society, representatives of the Township of Esquimalt, and research staff of the PWFC project.

Township Of Esquimalt is asked for the following contributions:

Wall display space

- Provide specified wall space in Esquimalt Gorge Park Pavilion (see site layout attached)
- Provide staff support for initial consultation and upkeep of wall display for 10 years;

Temporary exhibition display space in various locations as indicated above

- Contribute shared public spaces for each display for a 3-month exhibition, and staff time to facilitate setup and marketing;

3 Japanese garden interpretive display spaces

- Commit staff time for program consultation, upkeep and support

Timeline: Spring 2022 (approx. March) to Spring 2029. Total 7-year active commitment, plus maintenance of long-term installations.

Following several years of engagement with council and staff at the Township, our committee is proud to present a proposal for historical displays at the Esquimalt Gorge Park Pavilion to honour Japanese Canadian contributions to the region and to engage the public with the history of the site. Our proposal has already been presented to the Parks Advisory Committee which gave it unanimous and enthusiastic support.

Sincerely,



Jordan Stanger-Ross

Professor, History

Project Director, Landscapes of Injustice and Past Wrongs, Future Choices (Letter of Intent)

University of Victoria