

## **COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION**

*For consideration at the Standing Committee meeting of City Council on May 7, 2025*

### **1. Adding Sikh Heritage Month to the City of Vancouver's Official Observances**

Submitted by: Councillor Kirby-Yung

#### **WHEREAS**

1. Sikh Heritage Month is a month-long celebration in April highlighting the many contributions that Sikh communities have made to Canada. Sikh Heritage Month in Canada originated with the Legislative Assembly of Ontario proclaiming the month in 2013 and later formalized with the Sikh Heritage Month Act in 2019, recognizing the significant contributions of Sikh Canadians who first arrived in Canada in 1906 and have been making incredible contributions to our country, province and city ever since;
2. Sikh Heritage Month is the perfect opportunity to celebrate the history, culture and traditions of Sikh communities in Canada, which are grounded in the values of service and compassion. It is also the time to highlight the countless achievements of Sikh people, whether in politics, business, the arts, medicine or education;
3. The founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak Dev Ji, is renowned for sharing values of equality, humanity and unity throughout his life. In April, Sikh communities celebrate Vaisakhi, which commemorates the founding of Sikhism and honours the teachings and spiritual legacy of the ten Gurus which continue to inspire millions of people around the world;
4. The City of Vancouver takes great pride in the rich heritage of our diverse cultural, ethnic, racial and faith-based communities, and continues to work towards a more inclusive city for everyone;
5. Throughout the City's history the Sikh community has played and continues to play a significant role in shaping the social, economic, and cultural landscapes of Vancouver;
6. Sikh Heritage Month provides the opportunity for the City of Vancouver to officially celebrate the rich traditions and heritage of the Sikh community and to honour their lasting contributions to Vancouver.

#### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

THAT Council direct staff to add Sikh Heritage Month in April to the City of Vancouver's official observances calendar; and

FURTHER THAT the City of Vancouver will acknowledge this day with a proclamation as is customary for the City's official observances.

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