



**Council Member Motion
For the Council Meeting of October 13, 2016**

Date: October 12, 2016

From: Councillor Ben Isitt

Subject: Reconciliation and Clemency for Leonard Peltier - Updated

Resolution:

WHEREAS Leonard Peltier, an indigenous activist from Chippewa and Dakota Sioux territory in the present-day United States, and an honorary member of the Kwakwaka'wakw Nation of northern Vancouver Island, has been detained within the American prison system since his extradition from Vancouver, Canada in 1976; and

WHEREAS Since that date, a growing movement has emerged in Canada and around the world demanding freedom for Leonard Peltier; and

WHEREAS This advocacy extends from Bishop Desmond Tutu in South Africa, to the Anglican Bishop of the Diocese of British Columbia, the Right Reverend Dr. Logan McMenamie, to the Catholic Bishop of Victoria, the Most Reverend Gary Gordon, who appeal to United States President Barack Obama to free Leonard Peltier by granting Executive Clemency prior to the conclusion of his term of office in January 2017; and

WHEREAS The appeal for clemency has also been endorsed by leaders and organizations including: the Dalai Lama, the European Parliament, Nelson Mandela, Amnesty International, and Warren Allmand, Solicitor General of Canada and Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in the Government of Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau at the time Peltier was extradited from Vancouver; and

WHEREAS This advocacy is imbued with a personal connection to the current Government of Canada, with the Honourable Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould's grandmother Ethel Pearson, an elder of the Musgamakw Tsawataineuk Nation, offering Leonard Peltier asylum here on Vancouver Island in the 1970s to prevent his extradition from British Columbia; and

WHEREAS Leonard Peltier was adopted as an honorary member of the Kwakwaka'wakw Nation at the time, in accordance with protocols that included consent by dozens of hereditary chiefs; and

WHEREAS Victoria City Council has recognized 2017 as a Year of Reconciliation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Victoria City Council endorse Bishop Desmond Tutu's appeal for clemency for Leonard Peltier and request that the Mayor, on behalf of Council, forward this resolution to the Federal Minister of Justice and Prime Minister of Canada, urging them to write and advocate to the President of the United States in support of Executive Clemency for Leonard Peltier, as an act of reconciliation with the indigenous peoples of North America prior to the conclusion of President Obama's term of office in January 2017.

Respectfully submitted,



Councillor Ben Isitt

Attachments.

Amnesty International Issue Brief on Leonard Peltier's Case
Resolutions of European Commission, 1995 and 1999
Letter from the Reverend Gary Gordon, Bishop of the Diocese of Victoria
Letter from the Right Reverend Dr. Logan McMenamie, Bishop of the Diocese of British Columbia
Letter from the Right Reverend Mark MacDonald, National Indigenous Anglican Bishop
Letter from the Venerable Alastair McCollum, Rector of John the Divine Anglican Church
Letter from Dr. David Suzuki, Professor Emeritus, University of British Columbia
Letter from Dr. Val Napoleon, Associate Professor of Law, University of Victoria
Letter from Dr. John Lutz, Chair of the Department of History, University of Victoria
Letter from Gerry Ferguson, Distinguished Professor of Law, University of Victoria
Letter from Dr. Larry Hannant, Adjunct Professor of History, University of Victoria
Letter from Scott Lawrence, Ed. D.
Letter from Dr. James Rowe, Associate Professor Environmental Studies, University of Victoria
Letter from the Reverend Wallace Eamer, Deacon, St. Peter and St. Paul Parish
News articles from *Globe and Mail*, 1976 and 2000