BACKGROUND:

The City of Vancouver deemed it appropriate to illuminate Vancouver City Hall and Burrard Street Bridge in blue and white in recognition of the "76th Independence Day of the State of Israel" on May 14, 2024. The public made it clear that they did not support this illumination by emailing and calling the Mayor and Council in early May to ask them to cancel the light display. The city stood by its plan to illuminate, and a protest was organized for the afternoon of May 14th, followed by a vigil that evening. See below for how it turned out.

https://www.instagram.com/reel/C7AG5yjycqG/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRlODBiNWFlZA==

https://www.instagram.com/p/C7AJw4QSTA_/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRlODBiNWFlZA==

We are now calling on all **conscientious people in Vancouver and all over Canada** to apply to illuminate the city in **Palestinian** colours for **November 29th - International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People**.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Follow this link to access the application form: https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/city-hall-lights-program.aspx

2. Please submit an application at least 8 weeks before the event. **Submit before October 4, 2024.**

3. Copy and paste the information below into the 3 boxes in the form. You can choose one of the options, mix and match, or write your own. Please make some changes to the application, which will make each submission unique.

4. See below Option 3 for screenshots of application form

OPTION 1 – DIPLOMATIC VERSION 1

Event Name:

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

Event Description:

November 29th is internationally recognized as the Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. In 1977, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly called for the annual observance of this Day of Solidarity in resolution 32/40 B, which encourages Member States, Canada included,

to give the widest support and publicity to the honouring of this day. The illumination of City Hall and Burrard Street Bridge in the Palestinian colours of red, white, and green, would undoubtedly fulfil the obligation of this important resolution. According to the UN - “International days are occasions to educate the public on issues of concern, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems, and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity.”. The current risk of genocide in Gaza, as ruled by the International Court of Justice in January 2024, as well as the colonization of Palestine since 1948, is an issue of concern and a global problem. Therefore, marking this international day is of utmost importance to draw attention to the injustice and oppression of the past 76 years. It is important to note that other municipalities in the region, such as Port Moody, will be lighting up their city hall for Palestine on November 29th, 2024.

Criteria:

The awareness campaign is of national and international significance due to the risk of genocide that is currently being committed against the Palestinian people in Gaza by the Israeli entity, as determined by the International Court of Justice. The Canadian public has shown increasing support for Palestine, and that the rule of law, both domestic and international, must be respected. Angus Reid polls indicate that Canadians are overwhelmingly in support of a ceasefire and an end to the occupation of Palestine, with those who sympathize with Palestine increasing by 28% between November 2023 and February 2024. It has a direct connection to Vancouver residents as shown by the thousands of people that have marched on our streets in support of Palestine over the last eleven months. This Day of Solidarity contributes to the social and cultural fabric of Vancouver by acknowledging the city’s strategic objectives to be vibrant and diverse, as well as work with Indigenous populations towards reconciliation. We cannot talk about reconciliation in our country, as we ignore, or worse, support, the genocide of an Indigenous population in another country.

OPTION 2 – DIPLOMATIC VERSION 2

Event Name:

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

Event Description:

The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People is observed by the United Nations (UN) on the 29th day of November each year, in accordance with General Assembly mandates contained in resolutions 32/40 B and 34/65 D from 1977 and 1979, and subsequent resolutions adopted under the agenda item “Question of Palestine.” This date was chosen due to its significance to the Palestinian people, because on November 29th, 1947, the General Assembly adopted the Partition Resolution (181 (II)). This resolution provided for the establishment in historic Palestine of an “Arab State” and a “Jewish State”, and with Jerusalem as a *corpus separatum* under a special international regime. Nearly 80 years later, only Israel has been established out of the two States proposed under the Partition Resolution. The Palestinian people, with a population exceeding approximately eight million, live primarily in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, including East Jerusalem; in “Israel”; in

neighbouring Arab States; and in refugee camps in the region. According to the UN, the International Day of Solidarity provides an opportunity for the international community to focus its attention on the fact that the question of Palestine remains unresolved and that the Palestinian people have yet to attain their inalienable rights as defined by the General Assembly, namely, the right to self-determination without external interference, the right to national independence and sovereignty, and the right to return to their homes and property, from which they have been displaced. In response to the call of the United Nations, various activities are undertaken annually by Governments and civil society in observance of the Day of Solidarity, including, the issuance of special messages of solidarity with the Palestinian people, the organization of meetings, the dissemination of publications and other information material, and the screening of films. The illumination of the City of Vancouver in the Palestinian colours of red, white, and green, would align with the UN resolutions and with the Canadian public's support of the Palestinian people. It is important to note that other municipalities in the region, such as Port Moody, will be lighting up their city hall for Palestine on November 29th, 2024.

Criteria:

According to "Vibrant Vancouver: City Council's strategic priorities", the first strategic objective of the Council is to be "Vibrant and diverse". The Palestinian-Canadian, Arab, and wider Muslim community has endured racism and Islamophobia, before the current offensive in Palestine, but even more so now. This illumination would show the public that the city of Vancouver truly stands by its strategic priorities. The eighth strategic objective is "Reconciliation - We maintain mutually respectful relationships with and work to support and advance the rights of local Indigenous Nations and urban Indigenous Peoples." The work of reconciliation goes beyond a land acknowledgement at the beginning of a Council Meeting, it is engaging with local, national, and international Indigenous communities to foster mutually beneficial and genuine relationships. The Palestinians are the indigenous people of Palestine, according to the UN. Angus Reid polls indicate that Canadians are overwhelmingly in support of a ceasefire and an end to the occupation of Palestine, with those who sympathise with Palestine increasing by 28% between November 2023 and February 2024.

OPTION 3 – EMOTIONAL VERSION

Event Name:

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

Event Description:

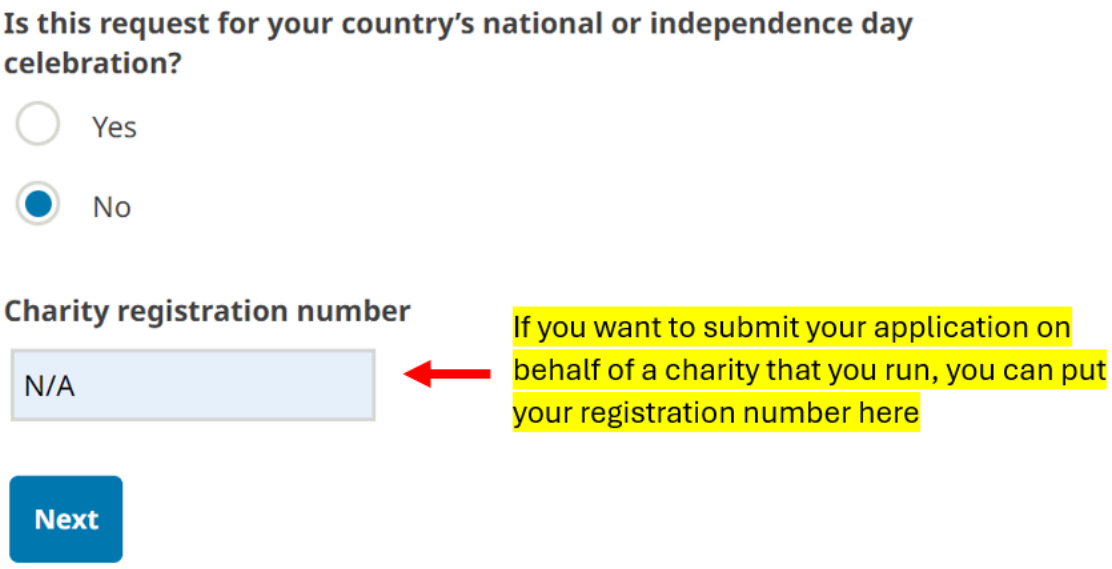
November 29th is internationally recognised as the Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People by the United Nations. The risk of genocide unfolding in Gaza, as ruled by the International Court of Justice in January 2024, over the last eleven months has shown Vancouverites what it means to be an Indigenous person in a colonial project. The genocide has been broadcast live by Palestinian journalists, with new nightmares unfolding on our devices daily. Images of civilians, primarily children, murdered by an army that shows no grace, humanity, or empathy. In an event that drew further divisions between Vancouverites, the city of Vancouver opted to illuminate City Hall and Burrard Street Bridge in the colours of the aggressor state of Israel on

May 14th, 2024. This was highly contested by the residents of Vancouver and was seen as completely irresponsible and distasteful for a city that claims to stand for diversity and inclusion.

Criteria:

This awareness campaign has a direct connection to Vancouver residents as shown by the thousands of people that have marched on our streets in support of Palestinians over the last eleven months. Angus Reid polls indicate that Canadians are overwhelmingly in support of a ceasefire and an end to the occupation of Palestine, with those who sympathise with Palestine increasing by 28% between November 2023 and February 2024. This increase can be attributed to the brutal genocide being committed by Israel, bringing 76 years of colonialism, oppression, apartheid and siege to the forefront of Canadian minds. Therefore, Vancouverites will warmly welcome this event and be an inspiration for all Canadians.

SCREENSHOTS OF APPLICATION PROCESS



Apply for a light display

ⓘ Submit your form at least 8 weeks and no more than 6 months before your requested date. For example, if your request date is October 25, 2024, you should submit your form after April 25, 2024 and before August 30, 2024.

Is this request for a health-related awareness campaign?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Website:

If you want to submit your application on behalf of an organization that you are a directive member of, you can add your website here

Proposed date to illuminate:
(MM/DD/YYYY)

11/29/2024

Proposed illumination colour for both City Hall and Burrard Bridge (one colour only):

Green

Name of applicant:

[redacted]

Organization name:

If you want to submit your application on behalf of an organization that you are a directive member of, you can add the organization's name here

Phone number:

[redacted]

Email:

[redacted]

List other buildings or landmarks that will be illuminated for your event:

Port Moody City Hall

Back Submit

Thank You.

We have received your request.

Staff will review your information and **contact you two weeks before your requested date**.

If you need to follow up on your application, email illuminations@vancouver.ca.