

## PROCLAMATION

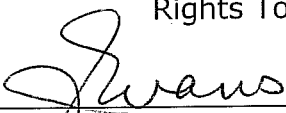
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- Whereas** The Human Rights Torch Relay is an international campaign initiated by the Coalition to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong (CIPFG) to draw attention to China's appalling human rights situation and to press for change;
- Whereas** CIPFG is sponsoring community events during the week of October 22-28, 2007 that will feature walking, running, singing, along with speeches by concerned individuals and groups;
- Whereas** the Human Rights Torch Relay has been well received in Europe by citizens and athletes since it was launched in Athens, Greece on August 9, 2007;
- Whereas** the Human Rights Torch Relay is anticipated to be in Canada in late April/May 2008;
- Whereas** the U.S. State Department said in its 2007 annual report on religious freedom that China continues to repress Christians, Tibetan Buddhists, Muslim Uyghurs while the Falun Gong continued to face arrest, detention, and imprisonment, and there were credible reports of deaths due to torture and abuse...and the report also notes an apparent crackdown by the Chinese regime ahead of the 2008 Beijing Olympics;
- Whereas** the Chinese regime illegally harvests bodily organs for sale from prisoners of conscience without consent;
- Whereas** the Chinese regime has ignored a request made by CIPFG on June 8, 2007 to improve rights in China, namely to:
- Stop the persecution of Falun Gong immediately and release all practitioners incarcerated for their faith;

- Stop the persecution of friends, supporters and defense lawyers of Falun Fong practitioners;
- Hold discussions with CIPFG to arrange details on the opening up of labour camps, prisons, hospitals, and related secretive facilities for inspection by CIPFG independent investigators;

**Whereas** the CIPFG Human Rights Torch Relay support group is dedicated to righting these wrongs, ending human rights abuses in China and preserving the true Olympic spirit through this effort.

**NOW, THEREFORE** I, Janet Evans, on behalf of the District of Sooke, am pleased to proclaim the week of October 22-28, 2007 as "**Human Rights in China Awareness Week**" and urge all citizens to support the Human Rights Torch Relay.

  
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Janet Evans  
Mayor