



P R O C L A M A T I O N

CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER

RELIGIOUS NEUTRALITY DAY

April 15, 2025

- WHEREAS** on April 15, 2025, marks the tenth anniversary of the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in *Mouvement laïque québécois v. Saguenay (City)*, 2015 2 S.C.R. 3, which affirmed the principle of religious neutrality in public institutions; and
- WHEREAS** the decision underscored the importance of maintaining a secular space where individuals of all faiths and beliefs can coexist in harmony and mutual respect; and
- WHEREAS** the New Westminster is committed to upholding the values of equality, diversity, and respect for all citizens, regardless of their religious beliefs or non-beliefs; and
- WHEREAS** recognizing "Religious Neutrality Day" provides an opportunity for our community to reflect on the importance of religious neutrality and to promote awareness and understanding among all residents; and
- WHEREAS** this day serves as a reminder of our dedication to fostering a harmonious and inclusive society where everyone feels welcome and respected;
- WHEREAS** we encourage all residents to join in commemorating this important milestone and to participate in educational events and discussions on the significance of religious neutrality in our society;
- NOW
THEREFORE** I, Patrick Johnstone, Mayor of the City of New Westminster do hereby proclaim April 15, 2025, as

RELIGIOUS NEUTRALITY DAY

In the City of New Westminster, Province of British Columbia.

Patrick Johnstone
MAYOR

