

PROCLAMATION TO COMMEMORATE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE KOMAGATA MARU INCIDENT

WHEREAS the Komagata Maru, after an historic voyage, arrived in Vancouver harbour on May 21, 1914 but was forced to leave on July 23, 1914 as a result of a discriminatory act by the government of Canada;

CONVINCED that the 376 British subjects from India, passengers on Komagata Maru, were treated differently compared with the white subjects of the British Empire;

AFFIRMING that the City of Vancouver now practises non-racist policies and treats its citizens with equality without discrimination based on race, ethnic or national origin, colour, religion; and recognizes the multicultural character of our city;

NOTING that the injustice did occur seventy-five years ago in our harbour but believing we have taken positive steps in harmonizing race relations since then;

REINFORCING the belief in human dignity, fundamental justice and equality for all;

THEREFORE now, I, Gordon Campbell, Mayor of City of Vancouver, do hereby proclaim July 23, 1989, Komagata Maru Day and call upon all citizens of Vancouver to commemorate in mutual understanding and respect the 75th anniversary of this reprehensible incident in order to build a more positive race relations climate in our city.