

The Eternal Flame

No. 137

May, 2023

www.vssdm.org
vssdm2009@gmail.com

Victoria Park Candlelight Reappears in Vancouver June 4th Vigil Will Be Held at David Lam Park

by VSSDM

2023 is the 34th anniversary of the 1989 Beijing Tiananmen Square Massacre, it is also the 4th anniversary of the Hong Kong Anti-extradition Law protest, Vancouver Society in Support of Democratic Movement (VSSDM) will hold the commemorative Candlelight Vigil in David Lam Park in Vancouver.

Mabel Tung, Chair of VSSDM, said that the organization has been hosting the June 4 Candlelight Vigil for the past 34 years, to the disappointment of many, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has been regressive in its democratization of the country. Since 1989, China's suppression of dissidents, freedom and human rights has intensified in an alarming speed, as witnessed in its crackdown on the democracy movements of Hong Kong for the past 4 years.

The relationship between Canada and Hong Kong has always been close, 1989 Tiananmen Square Massacre had triggered an influx of immigrant from the former British colony, however many have since returned. It is not until CCP's brutal crackdown of the 2019 Anti-Extradition Law protest and the imposition of the draconian National Security Law thereafter, that they are convinced to leave Hong Kong for good. For the past two years, VSSDM has seen a dramatic increase in the number of participants of the June 4 Candlelight Vigil, with plenty of young people among them.

Considering the thousands of participants who will be crowding the sidewalks on both sides of Granville Street in front of the Chinese Consulate General, VSSDM has decided that past years' location for the Vigil is neither feasible nor safe. This year, the organization will move the event to David Lam Park in downtown Vancouver. The spacious surroundings and pristine serenity of the Park provide an excellent venue to host an event of this scale, and the sprawling grassland resembles the Victoria Park of Hong Kong, where

Hongkongers attended the June 4 Candlelight Vigil every year until it was banned in 2020.

David Lam Park also gives the opportunity for local Canadians to understand more about the 1989 June 4 Massacre; when thousands of candlelight light up the June summer sky, Canadians and Hongkongers will recreate the ineffaceable image of the sea of lights in Hong Kong Victoria Park, through each and every spark of light it shines their unyielding demand to redress the June 4 Massacre, and their utter defiance to the repressive regime of the CCP.

VSSDM has organized the following events to commemorate the 1989 June 4 Tiananmen Square Massacre, it invites all who care about the democratic movement of China and the future of Hong Kong to attend.

May 27 (Saturday) Democracy Walk

2:00 pm, Granville Loop Park - Granville St. & W 5th Ave
walk along Granville St. to Chinese Consulate

May 28 (Sunday) The wreath-laying ceremony

10:00 am - 10:30 am, Forest Lawn Cemetery 3789 Royal Oak Ave, Burnaby
12:30 pm - 1 pm, UBC Goddess of Democracy (Between Brock Hall and the Nest)

June 4 (Sunday) Candlelight Vigil

David Lam Park, 1300 Pacific Blvd, Vancouver
4:00 pm, Exhibition
6:00 pm, Live Music
7:00 pm, Candlelight Vigil