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Civic lessons:

With White Rock marking its 60th year of independence in 2017, historians Lorraine and Hugh Ellenwood look back on how decades of politics shaped the city.

> see page 11

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Reverends speak out following changing rules in U.S., deadly attack on mosque

Christian leaders stand with Muslims

Aaron Hinks
Staff Reporter

Officials from three United Churches on the Semiahmoo Peninsula wrote an open letter to the White Rock Muslim Association saying they will stand with their religious counterparts as the country grieves a mass shooting that happened in a Quebec City mosque.

The letter, addressed to White Rock Muslim Association president Asad Syed, also makes

note of U.S. policy placed by President Donald Trump that serves as "forces of division."

Six men were killed and 19 more injured Sunday evening when a shooter opened fire in Centre Culturel Islamique de Quebec Sunday evening. Alexandra Bissonnette was arrested and charged for the mosque shooting.

The attack came two days after Trump issued an executive order last Friday that bans entry into the U.S. by citizens and dual-

citizens from the Muslim-majority countries of Iraq, Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen for the next 90 days. Trump also suspended the admission of all refugees for 120 days and ordered that Syrians be indefinitely blocked from entering the U.S.

"The events that took place in Quebec City, the shootings there and also what's happening in the U.S. right now in terms of the rules around immigration and refugees, in par-

ticular, run counter to our understanding of the gospel and the way that we are invited to live in the world," Sunnyside United Church Rev. Scott Swanson told *Peace Arch News*.

Swanson, Rev. Janice Young of Crescent United Church and Rev. Bruce McAndless-Davis and Rev. Louise Cummings of White Rock First United Church all electronically signed the letter, which was sent Monday.

> see page 4