

Report to Council

Report Title:	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation		
Prepared By:	Fiona Hamilton, Clerk and Sonya Watson, CAO		
Date:	September 14, 2021		
Report Number:	CLK2021-30	File Number:	C11CL
Attachments:	AMO Policy Update - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Municipal Resource Materials National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Bruce County		

Recommendation:

WHEREAS the Truth and Reconciliation Commission released its final report on June 2, 2015, which included 94 Calls to Action to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation;

AND WHEREAS the recent discoveries of remains and unmarked graves across Canada have led to increased calls for all levels of government to address the recommendations in the TRC's Calls to Action;

AND WHEREAS all Canadians and all orders of government have a role to play in reconciliation;

AND WHEREAS Recommendation #80 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission called upon the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, to establish, as a statutory holiday, a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process;

AND WHEREAS the Federal Government has announced September 30th, 2021, as the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (National Orange Shirt Day) and a statutory holiday;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby approves Report Number CLK2021-30 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, prepared by Fiona Hamilton, Clerk and Sonya Watson, CAO and in doing so commits to recognizing September 30th, 2021, as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (National Orange Shirt Day) by sharing the stories of residential school survivors, their families, and communities.

AND FURTHER approves the following directions to staff to begin implementing the Calls to Action made by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission:

- Approves Brockton staff purchasing two Every Child Matters flags and approves raising the flag at half-mast this year on September 30, 2021;

- Approves raising the Every Child Matters flags at half-mast for entire month of September (after labour day) in future years following an amended Flag Policy being approved by Council;
- Approves amending Brockton's Fees and Charges By-Law to waive any fees for Commissioning name change documents for residential school survivors;
- Approves encouraging staff to wear an orange shirt yearly for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (National Orange Shirt Day) on September 30;
- Approves Brockton employees attending online training on September 30, 2021 to recognize National Day for Truth and Reconciliation;
- Approves encouraging staff to continue to review and identify any barriers for participation by aboriginal residents and facility users;
- Approves amending the Heritage Committee mandate to include researching and highlighting the history and legacy of Indigenous and Métis people in Brockton;
- Consider highlighting the stories of aboriginal Canadians in sport when preparing recreational pamphlets or banners, where appropriate.

Report:

Background:

On June 2, 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Committee released its final report which included 94 Calls to Action to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada was constituted and created by the Indian Residential Schools Settlement agreement, and the Commission spent six years travelling across the country to hear the stories of survivors and their families.

Recent discoveries of remains and unmarked graves across Western Canada has led to increased calls for all levels of government to address the recommendations in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC's) Calls to Action.

There are 18 former residential school locations in Ontario. According to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, at least 426 children died while attending these schools, and an unknown number of children are still missing. The TRC has identified 12 unmarked burial sites in Ontario but there are likely more.

Analysis:

All Canadians and all orders of government have a role to play in reconciliation. Through further discussion with the County CAO's and our community partners a joint effort across the County has been initiated and plans are underway for further learning by all Municipal staff to honour the process of reconciliation. We are recommending that the Council of the Municipality of Brockton approves recognizing September 30th as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (National Orange Shirt Day) and implement some of the Calls to Action made by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Staff are recommending the follow as initial first steps in addressing the Calls to Action made by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission:

- Approves Brockton staff purchasing two Every Child Matters flags and approves raising the flag at half-mast this year on September 30, 2021 and for the entire month of September (after labour day) in future years with an amended flag policy coming forward.
- Amending Brockton's Fees and Charges By-Law to waive any fees for Commissioning name change documents for residential school survivors. This will allow residential school Survivors and their families to reclaim names changed by the residential school system by waiving administrative costs for a period of five years for the name-change process and the revision of official identity documents, such as birth certificates, passports, driver's licenses, health cards, status cards, and social insurance numbers.
- Approve encouraging staff and Council to wear an orange shirt yearly for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (National Orange Shirt Day) on September 30. Orange Shirt Day is a movement to recognize the colonial legacy of residential schools and commit to the ongoing process of reconciliation. Observed since 2013, Orange Shirt Day recalls the experience of residential school Survivor Phyllis Webstad, who at six years old was stripped of her brand-new bright orange t-shirt, in favour of mandatory uniforms, on her first day at a residential school in 1973.
- Council approves Brockton employees attending online training on September 30, 2021 to recognize National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The Canadian Indigenous Culture - Truth & Reconciliation Edition: Online Training provides Indigenous awareness training and is an important step in fostering an inclusive workplace culture where Indigenous workers feel welcomed, safe and respected. This self-paced online course educates participants about the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Indigenous rights, and more. This nationally-acclaimed course has been designed in accordance with the Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action (2015).
- Approves encouraging staff to continue to review and identify any barriers for participation by aboriginal residents and facility users and that Council consider amending the Heritage Committee mandate to include researching and highlighting the history and legacy of Indigenous and Métis people in Brockton;
- Directing Brockton staff to consider highlighting the stories of aboriginal Canadians in sport when preparing recreational pamphlets or banners, where appropriate to provide public education that tells the national story of Aboriginal athletes in history.

By supporting these Calls to Action the Municipality of Brockton is committing to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation.

Sustainability Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Sustainable Strategic Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

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| • Do the recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision? | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Cultural Vibrancy? | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Prosperity? | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to Environmental Integrity? | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to the Social Equity? | Yes |

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

The purchasing of two Every Child Matters flags costs \$152.43.

The Canadian Indigenous Culture - Truth & Reconciliation Edition: Online Training costs \$30/employee. Grant funding may be available for such training and is being pursued.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Fiona Hamilton, Clerk



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer