



Staff Report

Report Title: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Prepared By: Emily Dance, Clerk

Department: Clerks

Date: Sep. 8, 2021

**Report Number: CLK-2021-09-111
Reconciliation**

File Number: C09-Truth

Attachments: Press Release County of Bruce – Orange Shirt Day

Recommendation:

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby approves Report CLK-2021-09-11 prepared by Emily Dance, Clerk AND approves that the "Every Child Matters" flag be flown at the Community Flagpole during the month of September AND lowered to half-mast on September 30th to acknowledge Orange Shirt Day/National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Background:

On June 3, 2021 the federal government passed legislation ([Bill C-5](#)) to mark September 30, 2021, as a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

It was originally proposed in 2015 by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, which under Action 80 called upon the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, to establish a statutory holiday "to honour Survivors, their families, and communities, and ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process." The new holiday applies to all federally regulated public and private sectors employers that are subject to the Code (ex. banks, airports, Canada Post, radio and television broadcasting, telecommunications, etc.). The provisions came into force on August 3, 2021 – making this year the first year that this new statutory holiday will be observed.

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.

Ms. Webstad's story has become a national movement to recognize the experience of survivors of Indian residential schools, honour them, and show a collective commitment to ensure that every child matters. The initiative calls for every Canadian to wear an orange shirt on September 30 in the spirit of healing and reconciliation. The date of September 30 was chosen because it was the time of year when Indigenous children were removed from their families and forced to attend residential schools.

Discussion:

On September 2, 2021, The County of Bruce adopted a resolution in support of reconciliation, acknowledgement, and collaboration for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

"Bruce County Council has committed to recognizing September 30, 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. Bruce County will also fly the "Every Child Matters" flag at prominent County locations through September, lowering to half-mast on Thursday, September 30 to acknowledge Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation."

Staff recommends that the Township of Huron-Kinloss support the resolution of the County and the initiative by approving "Every Child Matters" flag be flown at the Community during the month of September AND lowered to half-mast on September 30th to acknowledge Orange Shirt Day/National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Financial Impacts:

There are no financial impacts associated with the report.

Strategic Alignment / Link:

We are a spirited community that takes pride in calling Huron-Kinloss home and welcoming others by maintaining a sense of connection and cohesion with each other.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Emily Dance, Clerk

Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer