



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

TO:	Council	
DATE:	September 27, 2022	DIVISION: All
FILE:	N/A	APPLICATION: N/A
SUBJECT:	Update: County Response to National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On September 30, 2022, County Hall will be closed in honour of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. In preparation for this day, Administration will be providing education and training opportunities for staff, in keeping with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada's Calls to Action #57. This particular Call to Action focuses on education and training for public servants with respect to the residential schools experiences of Indigenous Peoples in Canada. The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Council on how the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is being observed within Administration.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:

Administration recommends that this report be received for information in accordance with Option #1.

BACKGROUND:

In 2008, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada was established to reveal to Canadians the complex truth about the history and ongoing legacy of the residential school system. In addition, the TRC was intended to guide and inspire a process of healing and reconciliation between Indigenous families and non-Indigenous communities, churches, governments, private sector, and residents of Canada.

In June 2015, the TRC released 94 Calls to Action to redress the residential school's legacy and advance reconciliation in Canada. The Calls to Action are directed at all levels of government, the private sector, and Canadians as a whole.

On June 3, 2021, the federal government amended legislation to create the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This day occurs annually on September 30 and honours the children who never returned home and survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities.

When the County decided to observe the Statutory Holiday for the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, Administration formed an internal Indigenous Advisory Committee to provide advice and guidance to ensure this day was observed in a respectful and thoughtful manner. The Committee is an internal staff group, consisting of a cross functional team of volunteers with indigenous backgrounds and/or interest in this work. They meet quarterly, or as needed, to assist with determining appropriate methods to internally recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and to provide education and training to employees in accordance with Call to Action #57: *"We call upon federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal-Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism."*

Administration Resources

Clayton Whitney, People and Culture



Across the country, hundreds of local activities will be taking place the week of September 30 that commemorate the history and legacy of residential schools. The County will internally acknowledge this day by encouraging staff to wear orange (a symbol of openness to create meaningful discussion about the effects of Residential Schools and the legacy they have left behind), providing opportunities for staff to explore educational supports, providing orange pens for staff and public (along with appropriate messaging/signage), a series of email and internal communications and engagement of managers and staff.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

No budget implications have occurred to date. Administration has sourced no-cost education to support Call to Action #57.

If it is determined to advance future Calls to Action, Administration will develop a strategy for Council, outlining recommendations for ongoing efforts, with applicable funding requests, if required, at that time.

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN:

Communications for The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Administration's response to Call to Action #57 will occur during the week of September 26, 2022. Communication will be internal, with a focus on engaging County staff through email, the County's internal website and directly from County leadership.

OPTIONS:

- Option #1: THAT the County Response to the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation update report be received as information.
- Option #2: THAT alternative direction be provided.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorian Wandzura

Chief Administrative Officer

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ATTACHMENTS:

ATTACHMENT 'A': A Municipal Guide to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action
 ATTACHMENT 'B': The Truth & Reconciliation Commissions of Canada's 94 Calls to Action