



REPORT

Chief Administrative Officer

TO: Mayor and Members of Council

FROM: Kristi Honey, CAO

DATE: September 27, 2021

REPORT: CAO-10/21 **FILE NO.**

SUBJECT: Township Recognition of Truth and Reconciliation Day

BACKGROUND:

Earlier in 2021, the Federal Government passed legislation to make September 30th a new federal statutory holiday devoted to Truth and Reconciliation. This day was previously acknowledged informally as Orange Shirt Day; a day which recognized the cultural impacts of Residential Schools and the intergenerational legacy they leave behind.

In observance of the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation this September 30th, the Township is recognizing Truth and Reconciliation in several ways:

- We will proclaim and observe Sept. 30th as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in the Township of Uxbridge to honour Survivors of residential schools, their families, and communities, and ensure public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools. This includes observing September 30th as a public holiday for the Township.
- The Mississauga or Scugog Island First Nation flag will fly at Town Hall.
- The Uxbridge Historic Centre is hosting an outdoor display from September 28 to October 5 on the UHC grounds to honour survivors, their families, and communities. We encourage visitors to visit the site to see the information, ribbons, and resources for Reconciliation and to use this time and the outdoor space and to take a self-guided, contemplative walk to think about their role in Reconciliation.

- Uxbridge Public Library has a month's worth of activities and resources already underway including 'suggested title' book and movie displays in the adult and children's departments and "Take-home" family packages in the children's department. Staff are encouraging adult patrons to participate in the creation of origami ravens as a reflection exercise and for display purposes. The Library has also programmed the Children's garden with a display that includes first person testimony about the Residential School system and Phyllis Webstad's orange shirt day story.
- On September 30th at 9:30am, the Uxbridge Public Library will release a pre-recorded video presentation done in collaboration with other Durham and York libraries. The video features 3 Indigenous Canadian Authors.
- The Township will run a social media campaign acknowledging Truth and Reconciliation Day and will share informational social media posts from the Region of Durham, the Mississauga of Scugog Island First Nation, the Uxbridge Historic Centre and the Uxbridge Library as appropriate.
- A graphic acknowledging Truth and Reconciliation Day will be posted on the electronic sign on the highway.

In addition to observances initiated by the Municipality, community members also plan to observe Truth and Reconciliation Day:

- A tri-church initiative is organizing a walk from the Arena to Town Hall on sidewalks starting at 6:30pm on Sept. 30th to show solidarity and respect for those impacted by the Residential School system.
- The Maamawei Collective is organizing a "Sisters in Spirit Awareness Walk" on Sunday Oct. 3rd. The Walk is to raise awareness of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and 2 Spirit Peoples (MMIWG2S). Walkers will assemble in Centennial Park at 2pm and travel on sidewalks to Elgin Park where they will gather to hear a speaker and hang Red Dresses in the trees.
- Orange ribbons will be tied to trees, poles and standards throughout the downtown in acknowledgement of Truth and Reconciliation Day.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report CAO-10/21 be received for information;

Respectfully Submitted on behalf of the EDI Committee by:

Kristi Honey
CAO