



COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

COMMITTEE REPORT

To: Chair and Members of the Administration, Finance and Human Resources Committee
From: Susan Farrelly – Director of Human Resources
Date: September 20, 2022
Subject: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - September 30, 2022

Background

On June 3, 2021, the federal government passed a law which made September 30th a federal statutory holiday called the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This law is in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action #80 which urged the federal government to create a statutory holiday to commemorate survivors, their families and communities. The day has been created to give everyone an opportunity to recognize and commemorate the legacy of residential schools, which more than 150,000 First Nations, Métis and Inuit children were forced to attend between the 1870s and 1997.

The date of September 30 has additional significance due to being recognized as Orange Shirt Day which is intended to raise awareness of the individual, family and community inter-generational impacts of Canada's residential schools, and to promote the concept of "Every Child Matters". The orange shirt is a symbol of the stripping away of culture, freedom and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children over generations.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation at the County of Wellington

The County of Wellington's Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC) has recommended that September 30, 2022 be a day of learning and reconciliation for County employees. This also aligns with Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Call to Action #57 calling upon governments to provide education to public servants on this history.

At the County of Wellington, the following initiatives are occurring in recognition of September 30 as National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in conjunction with the IAC:

- A County-wide email will be sent out on the morning of September 30 with links to videos and educational resources to support County staff in learning about Canada's Residential School system. The email will also contain links to other County efforts on the subject – such as a reading list of Indigenous authors through the Libraries: [Reconciliation Resources - CEYD | EYPRC - Wellington County](#); and
- Promotion of Indigenous Canada training to all County of Wellington employees. This training comprises of a 12-lesson Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) from the Faculty of Native Studies at the University of Alberta that explores the different histories and contemporary perspectives of Indigenous peoples living in Canada. From an Indigenous perspective, this course explores complex experiences Indigenous peoples face today from a historical and critical perspective highlighting national and local Indigenous-settler relations. Indigenous Canada is for anyone with an interest in acquiring a basic familiarity with Indigenous/non-Indigenous relationships.

While this course is free, there is a small fee to obtain the certificate of completion. The County of Wellington has approved the cost to obtain this certificate; and

- 10 copies of Phyllis' Orange Shirt by Phyllis Webstad will be given away to County employees in a draw; and
- Information shared with County employees for anyone who is seeking an ethically sourced Orange Shirt Day T-shirt (or pin) to explore the following links of community partners who may be able to assist:
 - **The Healing of the 7 Generations:** [Orange Shirts | The Healing of The Seven Generations Shop \(square.site\)](#)
 - **Anishnabeg Outreach:** Provides a beaded Orange Shirt pin through a sponsorship program with local Indigenous beaders who are trying to grow their business: [Orange shirt pin sponsorship program – Anishnabeg Outreach \(aocan.org\)](#)
 - **Orange Shirt Society:** where you can shop for Orange Shirts and visit the video links to Phyllis Webstad (the woman who, as a child, had her orange shirt removed from her upon entering residential school). They are excellent educational resources if you are looking to understand more or want to share with community members looking for information: [WELCOME \(orangeshirtday.org\)](#)

Recommendation

“**THAT** the report ‘National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - September 30, 2022’ be received for information.”

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Farrelly
Director of Human Resources

Resources:

1. [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action](#)
2. [University of Alberta - Indigenous Canada | Coursera](#)