

<b>To:</b>	Warden Hicks and Members of Grey County Council
<b>Committee Date:</b>	September 9, 2021
<b>Subject / Report No:</b>	CCR-CW-06-21
<b>Title:</b>	September 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Heather Morrison
<b>Reviewed by:</b>	Kim Wingrove
<b>Lower Tier(s) Affected:</b>	None
<b>Status:</b>	

## Recommendation

1. That Report CCR-CW-06-21 regarding recognizing September 30 as a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation be received; and
2. That Grey County Council support the following Association of Municipalities of Ontario motion:

**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 County of Grey does hereby commit to recognizing September 30th, as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (National Orange Shirt Day) by sharing the stories and history of Indigenous people their families, and communities in Grey County through open discussions, exhibits and storytelling; and**

**That all flags be lowered to half-mast and the Every Child Matters flag be flown annually on September 30; and**

**That the Every Child Matters flag be added to the Flag Lowering Policy.**

## Executive Summary

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission report was published June 2, 2015 and contained 94 Calls to Action to remedy the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation. Recently, discoveries of remains and unmarked graves across Western Canada has again brought to light the need to immediately address the recommendations and Calls to Action. Staff is seeking the support of Grey County Council to recognize September 30 as a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and share stories, history and commit to understanding Indigenous people and their history.

## Background and Discussion

Grey County is home to the Anishinabek people of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation and includes the communities of Saugeen First Nation and Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation. Parts of Grey County also include traditional territory for the Six Nations of the Grand River, Haudenosaunee, and Wendat-Wyandot-Wyandotte people along with Metis. Several departments within the County maintain ongoing relationships with Indigenous communities including planning, social services, economic development, and housing relative to their respective portfolios.

The recent discovery of remains and unmarked graves across parts of Canada has sparked a greater push to address the Calls to Action within the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report. While Grey County was not home to a residential school, it has a deep and valued Indigenous history.

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) sent a request to all municipalities requesting support and recognition of September 30 as National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The AMO request also came with a resource that can be used by municipalities to provide some ways to seek a greater understanding of the history of Indigenous people and support reconciliation with our Indigenous neighbours and communities. The resource document is included at the end of this report. It includes suggestions such as educating oneself on residential schools, engaging with Indigenous leaders, speaking up and creating a Declaration of Mutual Commitment and Friendship.

Recently, Grey County Council approved the signing of a Declaration of Mutual Commitment and Friendship with M'Wikwedong Friendship Centre, following in the footsteps of AMO and

other municipalities across the province. As well, a Land Acknowledgement Policy was approved, with the Acknowledgement being read at Council meetings, included in corporate documents and used at other Grey County special events as a way of honouring and recognizing the history of Indigenous people in Grey County.

To honour the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Grey Roots is working to produce a physical display to add Grey County's Land Acknowledgement to the entrance of the Grey County Gallery. The goal of the permanent installation is to recognize the Indigenous presence in this area from time immemorial and to emphasize that Grey County's history does not begin with European settlement. Accompanying the Acknowledgement will be a series of maps to illustrate the traditional land use of Indigenous communities and the changes to that territory brought about by the colonial treaty process.

In the lead up to September 30th, through our website and social media channels, Grey Roots Museum and Archives will share the history, educational resources and a series of filmed testimonials from survivors of the residential school system.

Grey Roots is in the process of reaching out to members of the Indigenous Community to develop an Indigenous Advisory Circle that will guide the development of Indigenous focused projects in the future. There is much more that could be done at Grey Roots to increase the representation of Indigenous voices, cultures and history. It is our intention that this work be led by input from Indigenous collaborators. Staff are eager to move forward with new projects but recognize that building meaningful relationships with the community will take time.

AMO is also requesting consideration for municipalities to lower all flags and consider flying the Every Child Matters flag annually on September 30. As the National day of Truth and Reconciliation has been recognized as a federal statutory holiday, it is recommended that the lowering of all flags and the raising of the Every Child Matters flag be added to the County's Flag Lowering Policy.

## Legal and Legislated Requirements

There are no legal or legislative requirements related to this report.

## Financial and Resource Implications

There are minimal costs associated with purchasing nine Every Child Matters flags to be flown at County facilities. These costs will come from existing operating budgets. Any costs related to the development of exhibits at Grey Roots will fall within the approved operating budget.

## Relevant Consultation

- Internal-Kim Wingrove, Jill Paterson
- External

## Appendices and Attachments

[What Municipal Leaders Can Do To Better Support Indigenous Residents and Neighbours At This Time](#)

[Every Child Matters Flag](#)

[Flag Lowering Policy](#)