

Meeting Date: September 20, 2021
Department: Chief Administrative Officer
Report No.: CAO-2021-09
Submitted by: Fred Tranquilli, Chief Administrative Officer / Clerk
Approved by: Fred Tranquilli, Chief Administrative Officer / Clerk
SUBJECT: **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – September 30**

RECOMMENDATION: THAT: Report CAO 2021 09 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation be received for information and THAT Council endorses recognizing September 30 as a statutory holiday for Municipal employees.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This matter is in accord with the following strategic priorities:

- Values – teamwork, respect, integrity, progress

BACKGROUND:

September 30, 2021 is the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – otherwise known as Orange Shirt Day. The day has been recognized as a statutory holiday by the federal government. The day has not been declared a statutory holiday by the provincial government. The provincial government encourages Ontarians to honour the day in a fashion similar to the manner in which Remembrance Day is marked. Strathroy-Caradoc recognizes Remembrance Day as a statutory holiday. Like all Canadians, this day provides an opportunity for each municipal employee to recognize and commemorate the legacy of residential schools. This may present itself as a day of quiet reflection, participation in a community event or by learning more by following the links attached.

The purpose of the day is to encourage all Canadians to honour First Nations, Inuit and Metis survivors and their families and communities and to ensure that public commemoration of their history and the legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process. This may present itself as a day of quiet reflection or participation in a community event.

The Mount Elgin Industrial Institute was established in 1847 by an agreement between the Wesleyan Methodist Society and the Department of Indian Affairs. It opened formally in 1851, one of the first Indian residential schools in Canada. The Mount Elgin Industrial School operated from 1851 to 1946 on what is now the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation No. 42, in Muncey, twenty-five kilometers

from Town Hall. The land occupied by the institute also bordered on the reserve of the Oneida Nation of the Thames, from which it leased several hundred acres of pasture land. Mount Elgin was also known as the Muncey Institute.

COMMENTS:

Recent discoveries of remains and unmarked graves across Western Canada have led to increased calls for all levels of government to immediately address the recommendations in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Calls to Action.

All Canadians and all orders of government have a role to play in reconciliation. The TRC's 94 Calls to Action are addressed primarily to the federal, provincial, and territorial governments but also to municipal governments, the corporate sector, and the broader Canadian society. They cover a wide range of government responsibilities including child welfare, education, language and culture, health, justice, commemoration, museums and archives, training for public servants, and a few specific initiatives related to reconciliation.

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) have assembled information to assist municipalities to learn more about Truth and Reconciliation. The AMO Board of Directors encourages members to recognize September 30th as National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (also known as Orange Shirt Day) with the adoption of the following resolution:

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 Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc does hereby commit to recognizing September 30th, 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.

It is important to reflect and take time to educate ourselves on the tragic events that have unfolded. September 30th provides an opportunity designed 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.

CONSULTATION:

- Management Team
- Mayor Vanderheyden

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Some employees who have been scheduled to work September 30, 2021 but will be unable to observe the statutory holiday will be compensated for working a Statutory Holiday.

ATTACHMENTS:

[HTTPS://WWW.AMO.ON.CA/ADVOCACY/INDIGENOUSRELATIONS](https://www.amo.on.ca/advocacy/indigenousrelations)

[HTTPS://THECHILDRENREMEMBERED.CA/SCHOOL-HISTORIES/MOUNT-ELGIN/](https://thechildrenremembered.ca/school-histories/mount-elgin/)