



Staff Report CL2021-023

Title of Report: CL2021-023 - Recognition of September 30th as National Day of Truth and Reconciliation
Department: Clerks
Branch: Legislative and Council Services
Council Date: September 15, 2021

Recommendation:

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 Township of Southgate 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.

Background:

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](#).

Staff Comments:

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) Board of Directors are assisting municipal Councils with the following two resource papers:

https://www.amo.on.ca/sites/default/files/assets/DOCUMENTS/Reports/2021/MunicipalResourceTruthReconciliation20210823.pdf?_zs=AJHTN1&_zl=Wn342

https://www.amo.on.ca/sites/default/files/assets/DOCUMENTS/Reports/2021/WhatMunicipalLeadersCanDoToBetterSupportIndigenousResidentsNeighboursAtThisTime20210823.pdf?_zs=AJHTN1&_zl=Xn342

Staff are recommending approval of the resolution for municipal recognition of September 30th as National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. If approved, staff will share the Township's recognition on our Website and Social Media outlets.

Southgate is not considering adding this as one of our statutory holidays, but employees may take the day if they choose as a vacation or unpaid day off to acknowledge the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications to the municipality as a result of this report.

Communications & Community Action Plan Impact:

This report has been written and presented to Council to communicate accurate information to the public.

Concluding Comments:

That Council approve the resolution for municipal recognition of September 30th as National Truth and Reconciliation Day as included in this report.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dept. Head: *Original Signed By*
Lindsey Green, Clerk

CAO Approval: *Original Signed By*
Dave Milliner, CAO

Attachments: None