



TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH CARDINAL ACTION ITEM

Committee: Committee of the Whole – Public Works, Environmental Services & Facilities

Date: September 20, 2021

Department: Administration

Topic: Proclamation – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Purpose: To proclaim September 30, 2021 as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation as a way to continue recognition and remembrance of the children and their families impacted by the residential school system and our Indigenous communities.

Background: A new statutory holiday was proposed in 2015 by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada as a Call to Action recommendation #80. The Federal government was called upon, in collaboration with Indigenous Peoples, to establish a statutory holiday to honour survivors of residential schools, their families, and communities, and to ensure public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process.

On June 3, 2021, Bill C5, An Act to amend the Canada Labour Code (National Day for Truth and Reconciliation) received royal assent. The provisions came into force on August 3, 2021. September 30, 2021 will mark the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This new statutory holiday applies to federally regulated public and private sectors, including employers subject to the Canada Labour Code. Various Ontario organizations are advocating for the Ontario government to adopt the statutory holiday as well.

Policy Implications: At the municipal level, as per the Township's Proclamation Policy, Council can proclaim September 30 as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to recognize the Indigenous culture and help increase public awareness of the residential school system.

Article 14.01 of the union collective agreement has a clause indicating that any other day declared or proclaimed as a holiday by the Federal, Provincial or Municipal Government is recognized as a paid holiday. The Port of Johnstown will also receive this as a paid holiday being Federally regulated.

In addition, the Township has been flying flags at half-mast to honour the children whose lives were lost at former residential schools.

Financial Considerations: None.

Recommendation: That the Committee recommends that Council proclaim September 30, 2021 as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.



Clerk



CAO