



## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

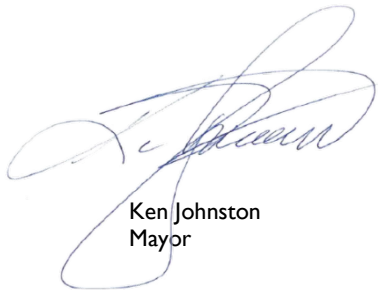
### PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS** Indigenous Peoples have lived on this homeland for over one hundred centuries, and Central Alberta is a significant historical landscape that is the ancestral land of the Nēhinaw (Cree), Siksikaitsitapi (Blackfoot Confederacy), Dene, Tsuut'ina, Nakota Sioux (Isgâ Iʔâbi, Stoney), and Saulteaux (Plains Ojibwe) people, and the home land of the Métis; and
- WHEREAS** Waskasoo (Cree - Red Deer region) has always been a meeting place for trade and ceremony, a place where you could cross the Red Deer River to travel north and south, a place for traders to venture into the mountains to the west, and the largest Métis Settlement west of Red River to the east; and
- WHEREAS** The first European explorers to arrive here in 1754 found a populated land with diverse, thriving, and complex cultures, people with extraordinary skill, strength, bravery, compassion, and a deep connection and respect for the land and nature. The Indigenous Peoples taught Newcomers the medicines, food sources, mode of dress, and other methods of transport that allowed them to survive; and
- WHEREAS** The unwavering resiliency and strength of Indigenous Peoples has preserved cultures and continues to add truth to the Canadian historical narrative with a peaceful process of reconciliation. The Canadian legacy of colonization includes forcing children to attend residential schools as a means to remove a connection to their culture, and the unmarked graves of thousands of children who died in those schools. Through sustained efforts to provide education about Truth and Reconciliation, Canadians are beginning to understand the long-term effects of colonization, assimilation, appropriation, and genocide that have created generational challenges, and trauma for Indigenous Communities; and
- WHEREAS** Every June, Canadians celebrate “National Indigenous People's History Month”, which is an opportunity to honour the heritage, contributions, and cultures of First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities across Canada. June 21 is recognized as “National Indigenous People's Day” in celebration of and respect for the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples.

#### NOW THEREFORE

I, Ken Johnston, Mayor of The City of Red Deer, encourage Red Deerians to seek to learn, experience, and understand the history and culture of our local Indigenous Peoples, I hereby affirm Indigenous Peoples as strong community partners in the past, present, and future of the area we now call Red Deer, and commit to a continued effort to action the recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action. I would like to thank our Indigenous Community for their patience and perseverance in this process of learning how to recognize the past, and move forward in a good way.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the Official Seal of The City of Red Deer to be affixed.



Ken Johnston  
Mayor

