



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: New Red Deerians are a vital part of our community—bringing fresh perspectives and new ideas, starting businesses, and contributing to the vibrant diversity that we all value. During Welcoming Week, we invite all Red Deerians to join this national and international movement of welcoming Newcomers to our community. By working together, we can achieve greater prosperity and make Red Deer the kind of place where diverse people from around the world feel valued and want to put down roots; and

WHEREAS: It is important to take the time to understand the challenges Newcomers experience. Stepping into new spaces, environments, languages, traditions, economies, and cultural practices can be incredibly challenging and often isolating. Youth who had dreams and aspirations must abruptly shift expectations, learn new ways of engaging, learn new languages, and often dreams that were once easily achievable seem impossible. Professionals often end up underemployed or completely starting over. Often refugees are leaving incredibly traumatic situations and have to recover while starting a new life. Leaving a home you know and a culture you understand doesn't mean you stop loving the spaces, places, and people you left behind. Overcoming the challenges requires perseverance, commitment, and an incredible amount of faith that the new community will be inclusive and accessible; and

WHEREAS: Regardless of where we are born or what we look like, we are Red Deer, united in our efforts to build a stronger community. By recognizing and supporting the contributions Newcomers make to create a vibrant culture and growing economy, helps to make our community more prosperous and more inclusive to all who call it home; and

WHEREAS: Red Deed Local Immigration Partnership (RDLIP) is a collaborative initiative between multiple stakeholders and organizations that aims to improve the economic and sociocultural wellbeing of newcomers by supporting community integration through connections with settlement agencies, employment opportunities, housing and other essential services. RDLIP continues to promote inclusion and diversity throughout Red Deer.

NOW THEREFORE,

I, Ken Johnston, Mayor of the City of Red Deer, recognize that September 13-22, 2024, is Newcomer Welcoming Week and encourage Red Deerians to find opportunities to learn, experience, and understand the history of settlement and the vital role Newcomers contribute to the community today. I hereby affirm our city's success depends on ensuring that all residents of Red Deer feel welcome here. We call upon the people of Red Deer to work together to build stronger communities across our city. This week, we honour the spirit of unity that brings neighbours together across Red Deer. Let us come together to build communities where every resident feels included and has the opportunity to contribute at their best and reaffirm that Red Deer is a welcoming community.

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

Mayor Ken Johnston
City of Red Deer

