



## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

# PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS** Indigenous Peoples have lived on this land for over one hundred centuries. Central Alberta is a significant historical landscape that has always been a traditional trading space. We are located on Treaty 6 and Treaty 7 territory which is the ancestral land of the Nēhinaw, Siksikaitsitapi (representing the Kainai, Siksika, Piikani and Aamskapi Pikuni), Dene, Tsuu T'ina, Nakota Sioux, and Saulteaux people, and the homeland of Region 3 Métis people; and
- WHEREAS** September 30<sup>th</sup> is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This day is to honour the children who experienced the Indian Residential Schools and the Indian Industrial Schools. Many children did not survive the experience, for those who survived the experience was often traumatizing. National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is a day dedicated to learning about and commemorating Canada's historical truth and to recognize the generational impact of cultural genocide. It is important to remember that engagement and learning is not limited to a single day, opportunities to engage take place throughout the year; and
- WHEREAS** For over 150 years, First Nations, Inuit and Métis children were taken from their families and forced to attend schools that were often hundreds of kilometers away from their homes, families, and culture. More than 150,000 children attended these schools. There are over 3200 documented deaths of Indigenous children at the Indian Residential Schools; the estimated total number of deaths is over 6000. Between 1974-2019, 479 unmarked graves were found at 5 residential schools. As of Jan 16, 2025, 2916 unmarked graves had been located in 30 of the 140 Indian Residential School sites across Canada; many have not yet been searched; and
- WHEREAS** The Red Deer Industrial School was open from 1893 to 1919. Students came from as close as the Louis Bull Tribe (53 KM) and as far away as Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (1469 KM). The Red Deer Industrial School had the highest mortality rate of any residential or industrial school across Canada with a 20% death rate; and
- WHEREAS** On September 30<sup>th</sup>, Canadians are encouraged to participate in Orange Shirt Day, an Indigenous-led commemorative action that recognizes the impacts of residential schools on individuals, families, and communities. Orange Shirt Day promotes the idea that "Every Child Matters" and symbolizes the historic and systematic stripping away of personal freedom and culture, known as cultural genocide, that often led to generational trauma experienced by Indigenous communities across Canada.



## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

### NOW THEREFORE

I, Ken Johnston, Mayor of The City of Red Deer, encourage Red Deerians to find opportunities to learn, experience, and understand the history and culture of our local Indigenous Peoples on September 30<sup>th</sup> and throughout the year. I hereby affirm First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people as strong community partners in the past, present, and future of this area that 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 ongoing 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.

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Mayor Ken Johnston  
City of Red Deer

