



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS

Indigenous Peoples have been the stewards of this land for thousands of years. This place has long been one of connection, culture, and exchange, providing nourishment, water, protection, and the foundation for life. Red Deer is uniquely situated on both Treaty 6 and Treaty 7 territories, the ancestral lands of the Nēhiyawak, Siksikaitstapi (Kainai, Siksika, Piikani and Amskapi Pikuni), Dene, Tsuu T'ina, Nakota Sioux, and Saulteaux Peoples, as well as the Métis people of Region 3.

For generations, First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples have endured the lasting impacts of colonization, including the loss of land, languages, cultural practices, and the forced separation of families. Despite this, Indigenous Peoples have shown extraordinary resilience in protecting and revitalizing their cultures, languages, ceremonies, and teachings.

While we are not responsible for this history, we acknowledge that we continue to benefit from systems that were built on it. It is our responsibility to support reconciliation and work toward more equitable systems for all. We are grateful for the strength, generosity, and perseverance of Indigenous Peoples, which continue to enrich our community.

June 21st is National Indigenous Peoples Day. First recognized in 1982 as a National Solidarity Day, this day honours the diverse cultures and traditions of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples. Celebrated on the Summer Solstice, it is a time of renewal, gratitude, ceremony, and connection to the land and natural cycles that sustain us all.

NOW THEREFORE

I, Cindy Jefferies, Mayor of The City of Red Deer, encourage Red Deerians to engage, learn, experience, and commit to understanding local Indigenous cultures. I recognize that First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people have always been strong community partners in this area that we now call Red Deer, and I commit to continued efforts to action the TRC Calls to Action and recommendations from local Indigenous people. 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 progress together through collaboration.

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

Mayor Cindy Jefferies
City of Red Deer

