



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: A healthy, professional news media is essential for the proper functioning of civil society and democracy at the local, regional, federal and international levels,

WHEREAS: The Public Policy Forum declares — on its website for the 2017 report *The Shattered Mirror: News, Democracy and Trust in the Digital Age* — that “real news is in crisis” in this country, and

WHEREAS: Canada’s federal government acknowledged in its 2019 budget (p. 173) that “A strong and independent news media is crucial to a well-functioning democracy,”

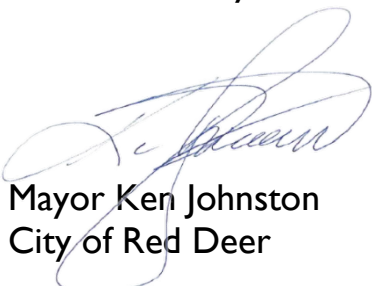
WHEREAS: According to Canadian Heritage, from 2008 to August 2021, almost 450 news outlets have closed, with nearly 63 of those closures happening since the COVID-19 pandemic began, and

WHEREAS: 29 municipalities — home to more than 13 million people in nine provinces (including Alberta) — have passed motions since 2020 voicing support for journalism in aid of democracy

NOW THEREFORE,

I, Ken Johnston, Mayor of the City of Red Deer, hereby recognize May 3rd, 2023, as World Press Freedom Day.

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

