



## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

### PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS** Indigenous Peoples have lived on this homeland for thousands of years, and Central Alberta is a significant historical landscape that is the ancestral land of the Nēhinaw (Cree), Siksikaitstapi (Blackfoot Confederacy), Dene, Tsuut'ina, Nakota Sioux (Isgâ I?âbi, Stoney), and Saulteaux (Plains Ojibwe) people, and the home land of the Métis; and
- WHEREAS** September 30th is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This day is to honour the children who did not return home and those who survived the Indian Residential Schools. It is a day for learning about and commemorating Canada's historical truth and to recognize the generational impact of cultural genocide; and
- WHEREAS** There are 3213 documented deaths of indigenous children at the Indian Residential Schools. As of June 2022, more than 2000 unmarked graves have been located on the school sites that have been searched so far; 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), Montana First Nation, Sampson Cree Nation, or Ermineskin Cree Nation, but also as far away as Saddle Lake Cree Nation, Onion Lake Cree Nation, and Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation. The Red Deer Industrial School had the highest mortality rate of any residential or industrial school across Canada at over 20%; and
- WHEREAS** On September 30th, Canadians are encouraged to participate in orange shirt day, an Indigenous-led commemorative action intended to recognize the impacts of residential schools on individuals, families, and communities. Orange shirt day promotes the idea that "every Child Matters" and symbolizes the systematic stripping away of personal freedom, culture, and self-confidence.

### 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 the local Indigenous Peoples, I hereby affirm First Nations, Inuit and Métis people as strong community partners in the past, present, and future of this 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 the Indigenous Community for their patience and perseverance in this process of learning how to recognize the past and move forward together.

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



Mayor Ken Johnston  
City of Red Deer

