



MUNICIPALITY OF **West Elgin**

Staff Report

Report To: Council Meeting
From: Magda Badura, CAO/Treasurer
Date: 2021-09-09
Subject: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Observance

Recommendation:

That West Elgin Council hereby receives the report from M. Badura, CAO/Treasurer re: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Observance; and
That West Elgin Council hereby direct staff to fly the “Every Child Matters” Flag on the Municipal Flag Poles, where able on September 30th and for 3 days after the National holiday annually in acknowledgment of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation; and
That an acknowledgement ceremony take place at 10 am on Thursday September 30, 2021 at the West Elgin Community Centre, West Lorne.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council information on plans to acknowledge the new Federal Statutory Holiday: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and the staffing cost to recognize this day as a statutory holiday for staff.

Background:

At the Council meeting on August 19, 2021 staff provided Council with a report about the new Federal Statutory Holiday and Council directed staff to return with a report on the cost of recognizing this as a statutory holiday for staff and options for recognizing the importance of this day publicly.

According to The Truth and Reconciliation Commission report, this day was established to spread awareness of and reflect upon the tragedies experienced by Indigenous people as a result of Canada’s residential school system. According to the Federal Government, September 30th “day present itself as a day of quiet reflection or participation in a community event”. Staff are suggesting an acknowledgment ceremony to allow community members and Council to gather and acknowledge the importance of this day.

Staff have researched and submitted a land acknowledgment to Delaware Nation: Moravian town, which is to be reviewed by their Band Council on September 21, 2021 at their meeting. Staff would like to have this acknowledgment unveiled at the acknowledgment ceremony, and then have it as a part of Council meetings from that point forward. This acknowledgment will also be placed on the website and in municipal buildings.

At this time staff are working with Dutton Dunwich and Elgin County Library to create a joint program for both municipalities to offer community engagement and participation and to reach out

collectively to local First Nation Councils to join us. The list of activities currently being proposed for each municipality are:

- Opening Prayer and Drumming
- Reading of Land Acknowledgement
- Welcome to traditional territory by Chief or Band Council Member
- Welcome/information on history and significance of this day by Mayor or Council Member
- Raising of Every Child Matters Flag
- Children's story reading by Elgin County Librarian

Staff are proposing inviting the local schools to the ceremonies and rotate them in each Municipality – West Elgin hosted at West Lorne Community Centre Flag Poles (West Lorne Arena) at 10 am and then Dutton-Dunwich at 1 pm.

Financial Implications:

If council approves the above recommendation, there will be no financial implications.

If council chooses to recognize this holiday with a day off in addition to the proposed observance additional \$3,000 in wages and benefits will affect 2021 budget.

Policies/Legislation:

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Observance - 2021-40-Administration Finance.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Sep 7, 2021

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Jana Nethercott