



MUNICIPALITY OF **West Elgin**

Staff Report

Report To: Council Meeting
From: Jana Nethercott, Clerk
Date: 2022-08-11
Subject: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation 2022

Recommendation:

That West Elgin Council hereby receives the report from Jana Nethercott, Clerk re: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation 2022 for information; and

That West Elgin Council direct staff to work with the Municipality of Dutton Dunwich to hold a joint program for the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, 2022.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to receive Council direction to proceed with planning one joint program to be held in West Lorne in 2022 to commemorate the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Background:

September 30, 2022 marks the second National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This day honours the lost children and Survivors of residential school, their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process.

In 2021 two separate events were held in West Elgin and Dutton Dunwich. The program included; reading of the land acknowledgement, remarks from Chief Chrisjohn of Oneida of the Thames, traditional drumming, a statement of the significance of this day, raising of the flag, remarks from MP, MPP, County Warden and Mayor, and story time with the Elgin County Library.

We must respect that this day is one of significance to our neighbouring Indigenous communities as well, therefore staff are recommending that a joint event be held between the Municipality of West Elgin and the Municipality of Dutton Dunwich. This will allow for resources to be shared and for a diversified range of recognition, education and observance.

It is proposed that West Elgin hold the event on even numbered years and the Dutton Dunwich hold the event on odd numbered years.