

**Subject: Responding to the Truth and Reconciliation
Commission's Calls to Action - A Collaborative Pathway Forward****APPROVALS:****Jamie Doyle**_____
Director_____
Chief Administrative Officer**Recommended Motion:**

1. THAT the attached report *Responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action: Principles for a Collaborative Pathway Forward in Wood Buffalo*, be accepted as information.
2. THAT the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (Call to Action 43), be endorsed as the Municipality's framework for reconciliation, and that Administration bring forward a Policy in 2022 for Council's consideration.
3. THAT the additional calls to action including Call to Action 1 (Child Welfare), Calls to Action 13 and 14 (Language and Culture), Call to Action 82 (Commemoration), and Call to Action 92 (Business and Reconciliation), be adopted by Council.
4. THAT Administration provide an annual update on the status of the municipal response to Truth and Reconciliation in Wood Buffalo with an additional report provided every four years to coincide with the Council term.
5. THAT Administration be directed to include funding in the annual budgeting process to support the meaningful commemoration of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation each year on September 30.

Summary:

The 2018-2021 Strategic Plan identifies Rural and Indigenous Communities and Partnerships as a priority, of which implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Calls to Action is identified as a key initiative. The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (Municipality) has made progress in strengthening relationships with Indigenous communities while remaining committed to advancing reconciliation. Implementation of an Action Plan and the Recommendations outlined in the Municipality's official response to the TRC Calls to Action (Attachment 1) will continue to further the Municipality's reconciliation efforts and build stronger relations

with Indigenous communities, people, and organizations.

Background:

The TRC was established to uncover the truth about Canada's Indian Residential Schools and to guide and inspire a process of healing and reconciliation. From the 1870s to the 1990s, at least 150,000 First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children in Canada were forcibly taken from their families and placed in residential schools, creating an enduring legacy of trauma and disconnection. Between 2008-2014, the TRC researched official records and visited communities across Canada, including Wood Buffalo, to hear from thousands of survivors and their families about the impacts of residential schools.

In 2015, the TRC published its Final Report - *Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future*. A total of 94 Calls to Action for all levels of Canadian government, Indigenous governments, the country's citizens and residents, policing agencies, private and public institutions, religious organizations, and other interested parties were identified. The Calls to Action are intended to redress the intergenerational trauma that was caused by residential schools and advance the Canadian reconciliation process.

Based on a 2017 Administrative Review, and informed by Indigenous community engagement, a total of 23 Calls to Action were collectively identified as within municipal jurisdiction or viewed as areas the Municipality could influence. Since early 2019, Indigenous and Rural Relations (IRR), in collaboration with Indigenous communities and organizations and other municipal departments, has worked to implement the 23 Calls to Action and incorporate Truth and Reconciliation into the Municipality's organizational structure. Major milestones have been outlined in the attached Appendix 1 - Timeline and Milestones (Attachment 2).

Budget/Financial Implications:

Administration is seeking funds by way of annual operational budget requests to support report development and the annual commemoration of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Rationale for Recommendation:

Partnerships with Indigenous Peoples, communities, and organizations in Wood Buffalo are built on continuing efforts to establish trust through meaningful and measurable reconciliation efforts over time. The Report's Action Plan and Recommendations initiate the next phase of relationship renewal and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and communities and continue implementation of the current Strategic Plan's priority Truth and Reconciliation actions and initiatives. This includes continuing to address the already identified 23 Calls to Action, responding to the additional Calls set out in the report's Action Plan, and future Council consideration of the implementation of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as the municipal framework for Reconciliation.

Strategic Priorities:

Responsible Government
Rural and Indigenous Communities and Partnerships

Attachments:

1. Responding to the TRC's Calls to Action - Principles for a Collaborative Pathway Forward

2. Appendix 1 - TRC Response - Timelines and Milestones

RMWB Presentation - TRC Response - Principles for a Collaborative Pathway Forward