
MEMORANDUM

CL-C 71-2021

Subject: Niagara Region's Corporate Day for Learning and Reflection on September 30, 2021

Date: September 23, 2021

To: Regional Council

From: Ron Tripp, CAO, Niagara Region

As part of our commitment to truth and reconciliation, Niagara Region will honour the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, 2021 by establishing a Corporate Day for Reflection and Learning.

With the recent passage of Bill C-5, Parliament has set this date as an annual statutory holiday for federally-regulated employees to acknowledge the history of the Indian Residential School system and to honour the children taken, their families, and their communities. The federal government created this federal statutory holiday in response to the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Call to Action number 80 of 94](https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1450124405592/1529106060525) (<https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1450124405592/1529106060525>)

As part of Niagara Region's commitment to advancing education and training for all staff on the history of Indigenous people living in Niagara – including the legacies of the Indian Residential School system – a Corporate Day of Reflection and Learning will provide staff with opportunities to listen, learn and reflect through Indigenous film screenings, facilitated discussions and streaming of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation events.

We are pleased to extend the invitation to Regional Council to participate in the September 30 Schedule of Events (Appendix A). An email invitation with the description of events and registration links will be circulated on Monday, September 27, 2021 to Regional Council.

New mandatory training for all staff on the history of Indigenous People in Niagara featuring the Indigenous Perspectives Docuseries developed by the Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre will form part of our staff course curriculum. This commitment builds off the recommendations found within recent local [Indigenous engagement](https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/equity/indigenous-engagement.aspx) (<https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/equity/indigenous-engagement.aspx>) reports, and

aims to advance reconciliation and build meaningful relationships with Indigenous People and nations.

In addition to the Corporate Day of Reflection and Learning on September 30, 2021, the Region will recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Day by:

- Sharing the importance of the day on our social media channels, such as amplifying the 94 calls to action.
- Encouraging staff and residents to consider supporting local Indigenous organizations, such as the [Woodland Cultural Centre's Save the Evidence campaign](https://woodlandculturalcentre.ca/the-campaign/) (<https://woodlandculturalcentre.ca/the-campaign/>), which seeks to restore the former Mohawk Institute Residential School and develop the building into an Interpreted Historic Site and Educational Resource. Links to other Indigenous organizations can be found on the Region's [webpage](https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/equity/indigenous-engagement.aspx) (<https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/equity/indigenous-engagement.aspx>).
- Encouraging staff and residents to wear an orange shirt to show their support for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Day on September 30.

Working in partnership with the Niagara Indigenous Community Executives (N.I.C.E.), additional activities are planned in the coming months. These actions are the start of a response to commitments relating to [Niagara's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan](https://www.niagararegion.ca/projects/community-safety-well-being/pdf/community-safety-well-being-plan.pdf) (<https://www.niagararegion.ca/projects/community-safety-well-being/pdf/community-safety-well-being-plan.pdf>) and recommendations in the [Creating Our Way Forward: Recommendations for Improving Niagara Region Public Health and Emergency Services' Indigenous Engagement report](https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/equity/pdf/indigenous-engagement-report.pdf) (<https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/equity/pdf/indigenous-engagement-report.pdf>).

- On October 14, the Region's Corporate Leadership Team will meet with senior-level urban Indigenous leaders to establish relationships and examine opportunities to collaborate, address racism and discrimination across Niagara, and improve service delivery for Indigenous people in Niagara
- In the coming months, all municipal elected officials in the region will be invited to attend a workshop on the history of Indigenous peoples living in Niagara and present-day legacies of colonialism
- Finally, early next year a special Regional Council meeting is proposed to consider options for action in response to the recommendations found in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report

Please feel free to reach out to my office should you have an additional questions.

Respectfully submitted and signed by:

Ron Tripp, P. Eng
Acting Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix A: Schedule of Events for September 30 – Corporate Day for Learning and Reflection