

# CITY OF HAMILTON

## NOTICE OF MOTION

Council Date: September 25, 2024

**MOVED BY MAYOR A. HORWATH.....**

### **Commemorating ‘September 30<sup>th</sup> – The National Day of Truth and Reconciliation Day’, as a Municipal Holiday**

WHEREAS all Canadians and orders of Government have a role to play in Reconciliation;

WHEREAS recommendation #80 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission called upon the Federal Government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, to establish, as a statutory holiday, a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process;

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Federal Government declared September 30<sup>th</sup> the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation;

WHEREAS, the Province of Ontario has not joined British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and the Yukon in recognizing September 30<sup>th</sup> as a Provincial Statutory holiday;

WHEREAS, it is at the discretion of municipalities to declare their own holidays;

WHEREAS, the Town of Oakville, City of Mississauga, City of Brampton, Town of Orillia, Municipality of Middlesex-Centre, City of Owen Sound, City of Greater Sudbury, Municipality of Port Hope, and the City of Burlington have all declared September 30<sup>th</sup>, the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, a municipal statutory holiday;

WHEREAS, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario closes their doors in recognition of this day;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton as committed to Truth and Reconciliation;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton has adopted an Urban Indigenous Strategy, which includes the following key objectives:

- “Identify actions within municipal jurisdictions and capacity arising from the 2015 Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s Final Report”
- “Promote a greater understanding among all Hamiltonians through public education on the histories and contributions of Indigenous peoples”
- “Create opportunities for education and internal collaboration among City staff to strengthen the relationship with the Indigenous community and service providers”

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That staff, with support from the Indigenous Relations Team, be directed to report back to the General Issues Committee in Q2 2025, with recommendations on the process the City of Hamilton would follow in order to recognize 'National Truth and Reconciliation Day', as a municipal holiday beginning in 2025 (September 30, 2025), including:
  - (i) a jurisdictional scan of the processes other municipalities have followed in recognizing their municipal holidays.
  - (ii) any potential Human Resources, Financial or Legal impacts; and
- (b) That the Mayor and Council forward a letter of support to Premier Ford to make the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation a Provincial statutory holiday.