

Media Release

Date: September 24, 2021

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Pembroke

The City of Pembroke is marking the inaugural National Day for Truth and Reconciliation with a blanket exercise at the Waterfront.

Everyone is welcome Thursday, September 30 at 9 a.m. for an educational and emotional workshop in remembrance to those who did not make it home from residential schools. People are encouraged to wear orange on this day.

The blanket exercise is based on using Indigenous methodologies, and the goal is to build understanding about our shared history as Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada by walking through pre-contact, treaty-making, colonization and resistance. Everyone is actively involved as they step onto blankets that represent the land, and into the role of First Nations, Inuit and later Métis peoples. By engaging on an emotional and intellectual level, the blanket exercise effectively educates and increases empathy. The exercise always concludes with a sharing circle.

This event is free; however, space is limited. Tickets are available at <https://bit.ly/blanketexercise21>.

All COVID-19 protocols will place. Please bring your own mask.

For those looking for virtual alternatives, the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation is offering a full week of presentations on a variety of topics. For more information visit <https://nctr.ca/education/trw/general-public-schedule/>.

In addition, there will be events taking place at Parliament Hill that will be livestreamed at <http://remember-me-september-30.org/>.

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation honours the lost children and Survivors of residential schools, their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a key piece of the reconciliation process.

City Council passed a resolution committing it to recognizing September 30 as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation by sharing the stories of residential school Survivors, their families and communities. The full resolution can be viewed on the City's website at <https://www.pembroke.ca/media-releases/national-day-for-truth-and-reconciliation-resolution-2021-026-7190.html>.



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In addition to the blanket exercise, all Canadian flags on municipal buildings that can be lowered to half-mast, will be.

City of Pembroke offices will also be closed September 30.

For more information on the blanket exercise, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 613-735-6821 ext. 1501 or email recreation@pembroke.ca.

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