

**Meeting Date:** July 10, 2024

**Subject:** Responding to the Truth and Reconciliation  
Commission's Calls to Action in Fort McMurray Wood  
Buffalo – 2023 Annual Update

**Approvals:** Dennis Fraser

Director

Henry Hunter

Chief Administrative Officer

## Recommendation(s):

1. THAT the attached report *Responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action in Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo – 2023 Annual Update* be accepted as information.
2. THAT Call to Action 45 be formally adopted, which calls upon the Government of Canada, on behalf of all Canadians, to jointly develop with Aboriginal peoples a Royal Proclamation of Reconciliation to be issued by the Crown.
3. THAT Call to Action 69 (recommended by Alberta Municipalities) be formally adopted, which encourages libraries to commit more resources to public education and programming focused on residential schools.
4. THAT Call to Action 93 (recommended by Alberta Municipalities) be formally adopted, which calls on governments to create and/or revise information kits for newcomers to reflect a more inclusive history of the diverse Aboriginal peoples of Canada, including information about the Treaties and the history of residential schools.

## Summary:

Council's 2022 - 2025 Strategic Plan identifies Rural and Indigenous Communities and Relationships as a Value. The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) continues to make progress in advancing its' response to truth and reconciliation through various programs and initiatives.

The 2023 Annual Update, *Responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action in Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo* includes the efforts made over the last year to advance reconciliation in the region.



## **Background:**

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (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 were identified. The Calls to Action are intended to redress the intergenerational trauma that was caused by residential schools and advance the reconciliation process across Canada.

In 2016, Council unanimously approved an administrative review of the TRC Calls to Action. Since then, a total of 30 Calls to Action have been identified as areas the Municipality has the jurisdiction to influence. Since early 2019, IRR, in collaboration with Indigenous communities and organizations and other municipal departments, has worked to implement these Calls to Action and incorporate Truth and Reconciliation into the RMWB's organizational structure.

On September 14, 2021, the Indigenous and Rural Relations department (IRR) presented the report, *Responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action: Principles for a Collaborative Pathway Forward in Wood Buffalo*. At this meeting, Council unanimously approved a motion that directed Administration to provide an annual update on the status of the municipal response to truth and reconciliation in Wood Buffalo.

On February 7, 2022, IRR presented *Responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action in Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo*, fulfilling and sustaining the request for an annual update on the status of the Municipality's response to truth and reconciliation in Wood Buffalo. As IRR continues to create initiatives to advance reconciliation within the region, annual reports will be provided to highlight these efforts.

## **Budget | Financial Considerations:**

The IRR department's annual operating budget includes funds for ongoing projects, programs, and initiatives to continue to advance the Municipality's response to truth and reconciliation in Wood Buffalo.



### **Strategic Plan Alignment | Impact:**

Using the TRC's 94 Calls to Action as a roadmap and aligning it with Council's 2022 – 2025 Strategic Plan, the TRC report was the formal foundation for the Municipality's efforts and initiatives to reconcile and renew relationships with Indigenous Peoples and communities in Wood Buffalo.

#### *Building Partnerships:*

Collaborative efforts to renew and continue to build partnerships with Indigenous communities and organizations in Wood Buffalo were ongoing throughout 2023 and were evident in the many events that were co-hosted across the region.

#### *Rural and Indigenous Communities and Relationships:*

Building relationships with Indigenous communities continues to be a priority for IRR. It fosters mutual understanding, respect, and trust, which are essential for reconciliation.

### **Rationale for Recommendation(s):**

Council's 2022 - 2025 Strategic Plan underscores the significance of rural and Indigenous communities and relationships, emphasizing the advancement of truth and reconciliation in Wood Buffalo. Strengthening these relationships involves ongoing, meaningful, and measurable reconciliation efforts. The annual update ensures these efforts are documented and opportunities for improvement are identified.

### **Attachment(s):**

1. Responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action in Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo – 2023 Annual Update.
2. Responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action in Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo – 2023 Annual Update Power Point.

