

SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

SUBJECT: ORANGE SHIRT DAY – FEDERAL LEGISLATION

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council write to the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, requesting that legislation be brought forward to recognize September 30, or Orange Shirt Day, as a federally recognized statutory holiday.
2. THAT a copy of the report be forwarded to Ms. Kristin Spray and Mr. Eddy Charlie, Xe Xe Smun Eem (Sacred Children).

REPORT

The Social Planning Committee, at its meeting held on 2020 September 15, received and adopted the attached report providing information relating to the status of federal private member's bill on Orange Shirt Day.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor C. Jordan
Chair

Councillor J. Keithley
Vice Chair

Copied to: City Manager Director Planning and Building Director Human Resources

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

DATE: 2020 September 03

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

FILE: 1750-20

SUBJECT: ORANGE SHIRT DAY – FEDERAL LEGISLATION

PURPOSE: To provide the Committee with information relating to the status of a federal private member’s bill on ‘Orange Shirt Day’.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** the Committee request Council to write the Honourable Carolyn Bennett Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, requesting that legislation be brought forward to recognize September 30th, or ‘Orange Shirt Day’, as a federally recognized statutory holiday.
2. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to Ms. Kristin Spray and Mr. Eddy Charlie, Xe Xe Smun Eem (Sacred Children).

REPORT**1.0 BACKGROUND**

The Social Planning Committee, as its Open meeting held on 2020 June 16, received correspondence from Ms. Kristin Spray and Mr. Eddy Charlie, Xe Xe Smun Eem (Sacred Children) and City of Victoria Orange Shirt Day organizers, seeking support to bring back a private member’s Bill regarding national recognition of Orange Shirt Day in the House of Commons. The correspondence was subsequently referred to staff for review and more information. This report responds to that request.

Private members Bill C-369 was brought forward by New Democratic Party Member of Parliament Georgina Jolibois (Desnethé—Missinippi—Churchill River / Saskatchewan) in October 2017. The Bill sought to have September 30th or ‘Orange Shirt Day’, established as a federally recognized statutory holiday.

2.0 POLICY CONTEXT

This report supports a number of goals and sub-goals of the *Corporate Strategic Plan*:

- ***A Connected Community***
 - Social connection – Enhance social connections throughout Burnaby

- Partnership – Work collaboratively with businesses, educational institutions, associations, other communities and governments
- **An Inclusive Community**
 - Create a sense of community – Provide opportunities that encourage and welcome all community members and create a sense of belonging

3.0 ORANGE SHIRT DAY

Orange Shirt Day is observed on September 30th every year to raise awareness, acknowledge and maintain open discussion about the legacy of residential schools in Canada and the truth and reconciliation process. The September 30 date represents the time of year when Indigenous children were removed from their homes and taken to residential school.

Orange Shirt Day originates from an event held in Williams Lake, B.C. in May 2013, called the St. Joseph Mission Residential School (1891-1981) Commemoration Project and Reunion. At this event, former students and their families gathered together with the Mayors and municipalities, School Districts and civic organizations from the Cariboo region to witness and honour the healing journey of those affected by the residential school system. Wearing an orange shirt on this day was chosen based on a story from a former student of St. Joseph Mission Residential School whose grandmother gave her a new orange shirt for her first day of school but it was taken away from her upon arrival at the school.

Burnaby School District has observed Orange Shirt Day since 2014 and the City of Burnaby has observed the day since 2018. The Day is also observed and recognized annually by the Province of B.C.

4.0 STATUS OF LEGISLATION

As mentioned above, Bill C-369 was introduced in the House in 2017. It progressed to receive second reading in the Senate as of April 2, 2019. However, the Bill did not receive final approval and Royal Assent prior to Parliament being prorogued for the 2019 October election. As such the Bill is no longer active and would need to be reintroduced and be reconsidered, or new similar legislation tabled.

5.0 NEXT STEPS

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada ‘Calls to Action’ #80 explicitly calls upon the federal government to establish, as a statutory holiday, a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to honour Survivors, their families, and communities, and ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process. September 30th, or ‘Orange Shirt Day’, is an opportunity, grounded in historical and personal experience, to establish such a day.

Such recognition also aligns with the recent announcement (2020 September 01) by the federal government that residential schools have been included on the official roster of National Historic Events, and that two former residential schools (Portage La Prairie Residential School in Manitoba

To: *Social Planning Committee*
From: *Director Planning and Building*
Re: *Orange Shirt Day – Federal Legislation*
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and Shubenacadie Residential School in Nova Scotia) are being designated as National Historic Sites.

As such, it is recommended the Committee request Council to write The Honourable Carolyn Bennett Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, requesting that legislation be brought forward to recognize September 30th, or ‘Orange Shirt Day’ as a federally recognized statutory holiday. As well, it is recommended that a copy of this report be forwarded to Ms. Kristin Spray and Mr. Eddy Charlie. Xe Xe Smun Eem (Sacred Children).



E.W. Kozak, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

RM/sa

cc: City Manager
Acting City Clerk
Director Human Resources