

MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Committee of the Whole Report

DATE: Tuesday, April 13, 2021

**TITLE: PROCLAMATION REQUEST: ORANGE SHIRT DAY IN
VAUGHAN**

FROM:

Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua

Whereas, Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake in the spring of 2013, which was inspired by Phyllis (Jack) Webstad's account of losing her shiny new orange shirt on her first day of school at the Mission. The Orange Shirt is now used as a vivid reminder of the need for ongoing discussions and work towards Truth and Reconciliation; and

Whereas, Orange Shirt Day is an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and community agencies to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come. It is recognized to honour the legacy of the Indian Residential School Survivors, their families and communities, as well as to remember the individuals who died in the residential school system, which according to the official apology issued by the federal government in 2008, "were created to remove and isolate children from the influence of their homes, families, traditions and cultures, and to assimilate them into the dominant culture."; and

Whereas, Orange Shirt Day is an opportunity to educate people and promote awareness about the Indian Residential School System and the impact this system still has on Indigenous communities in Canada today; and

Whereas, Orange Shirt Day recognizes one of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations for a "National Day 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."

It is therefore recommended:

1. **THAT** the City of Vaughan proclaim every September 30 as Orange Shirt Day;
2. **THAT** the proclamation be posted on the City's website and the Corporate and Strategic Communications department be directed to promote the proclamation on corporate communications channels.