

# STAFF REPORT

## THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COBOURG



<b>Report to:</b>	Mayor and Council Members	<b>Priority:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low
<b>Submitted by:</b>	Tracey Vaughan, Chief Administrative Officer <a href="mailto:tvaughan@cobourg.ca">tvaughan@cobourg.ca</a>	<b>Meeting Type:</b>	Open Session <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed Session <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	September 20, 2021		
<b>Report No.:</b>	CAO-07-21		
<a href="#">Submit comments to Council</a>			

**Subject/Title:** National Truth & Reconciliation Day, September 30, 2021-  
Indigenous "Seven Feathers" Crosswalk

### RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council receive the National Truth & Reconciliation Day, September 30, 2021 report for information purposes; and

FURTHER THAT Council support the "Seven Feathers" Walkway to represent the teachings of the Seven Grandfathers to be installed at the intersection of Albert Street and Second Street as a step towards reconciliation in our community and a symbol of the strength and courage of the Residential School survivors and a tribute to those lives lost.

### 1. STRATEGIC PLAN

The following actions proposed in this report support the Town of Cobourg's People Pillar to leverage the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy to promote inclusion in the community.

### 2. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The actions proposed in the report provide opportunities for residents to demonstrate their support to equity, diversity and inclusion and to build an understanding about the lived experiences of indigenous peoples and communities, and to work together towards reconciliation with Indigenous persons and communities.

### 3. ORIGIN AND LEGISLATION

The Town of Cobourg is proposing the painting of an Indigenous “Seven Feathers” Crosswalk over the preexisting crosswalk running from Albert Street across from Second Street towards Rotary Harbourfront Park. Located on Albert Street at Second Street, the orange crosswalk, with seven feathers centered across its width, acknowledges the Indigenous children who were taken from their families and forced to attend residential schools. This will also serve as a reminder of the strength and courage of the residential school survivors and a respectful tribute to those lives lost.

The completion goal for the Indigenous “Seven Feathers” Crosswalk would be September 30, 2021 – the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The installation of this crosswalk in Cobourg would be a tangible acknowledgement of the Town’s commitment to work toward fulfilling the calls to action by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The installation and repair of ‘non-permanent street furniture’ would be exempt from requiring a Heritage Permit under the Ontario Heritage Act. The municipality is also able to paint on roads within a heritage district and therefore this project is exempt from requiring a Heritage Permit.

#### 15.3 Exemptions for public realm properties

Alterations that may be carried out without obtaining a heritage permit under Section 42 of the Ontario Heritage Act are:

- d) Installation and/or repair of street furniture: Work undertaken for the installation and/or repair of non-permanent street furniture including but not restricted to seating, planters, tree grates, banners, hanging baskets, garbage receptacles and bike racks in accordance with this Plan.
- g) Trails and bicycle lanes: The addition of bicycle lanes within the existing road right-of-way does not require a heritage permit. The installation of trails on existing public open space.

### 4. BACKGROUND

For more than 150 years, Indigenous children have been taken from their families and communities to attend federally funded schools. More than 150,000 children attended Indian Residential Schools and many never returned. The explicit intent of these schools was to separate Indigenous children from their families and cultures. The last of the residential schools was closed in 1996. The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples drew attention to the lasting harm that was done by the residential schools. A growing number of Survivors and their descendant came forward to tell their stories and demand action. From this, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was created which then drafted the Calls to

Action for different levels of government, health care, education, and for all persons to recognize and acknowledge the harm of residential schools.

The Federal holiday, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is on September 30<sup>th</sup> providing an opportunity for each Canadian to recognize and commemorate the legacy of residential schools.

At the Town of Cobourg, we have partnered with Alderville First Nations as well as the Peterborough Friendship Centre to incorporate Indigenous ways of knowing and working into the EDI Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference, the Traditional Land Acknowledgement, and the renaming of the West Headlands.

## 5. ANALYSIS

The new *Indigenous “Seven Feathers” Crosswalk* will highlight the seven virtues or teachings of the grandfathers that have been adopted by many Indigenous communities. Many Indigenous organizations and communities have adopted the seven (7) guiding principles, in one form or another, as a moral steppingstone and cultural foundation. Each community has adapted the teachings to suit their community values. Despite where the teachings may have originated, they share the same concepts of human conduct toward each other, with a focus on moral respect for all living things.

**These seven (7) principles are Love, Respect, Courage, Honesty, Humility, Truth and Wisdom.**

Staff believe that the installation of this crosswalk will provide an opportunity and reminder for residents and visitors to build their understanding of the history of indigenous people, and communities, and make a personal connection and commitment to reconciliation.

## 6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/BUDGET IMPACTS

Painting of the cross walk will be completed in-house by Public Works’ staff. The cost for this project is \$1,200 which will be funded from the Mayor’s Public Relations Budget.

## 7. CONCLUSION

The Indigenous “Seven Feathers” Crosswalk is another step on our Indigenous reconciliation pathway. The Town of Cobourg will continue to listen to and learn from our Indigenous partners, urban Indigenous residents, and all rights holders in our community.

## Report Approval Details

Document Title:	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - September 30, 2021 - Corporate Services-116-21 - Office of the CAO-001-21.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Sep 17, 2021

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

**No Signature found**

**Brent Larmer, Municipal Clerk / Manager of Legislative Services - Sep 17, 2021 - 9:15 AM**