City recognizes National Aboriginal Day

At a ceremony at Canada Place on Friday, June 20, Mayor Don Iveson officially recognized Saturday, June 21, 2014, as National Aboriginal Day.

"Here we are, in the heart of Treaty Six territory, to celebrate an important aspect of our history as a City – National Aboriginal Day," said Mayor Iveson. "Along with this year's theme – Honouring Our Past Building Our Future, it could not be a more appropriate time to celebrate our rich Aboriginal culture."

Mayor Iveson was referring to the seven national Truth and Reconciliation Commission events, the last of which took place in Edmonton in March. The Commission acknowledged the more troubling aspects of Canada's past with the Aboriginal communities, including the residential school program. The Commission also provided a forum for survivors to share their stories and to celebrate the resilience of Aboriginal people.

"City Council remains committed to creating stronger connections with our Aboriginal community through a mutual understanding of our shared history," said Mayor Iveson. "We recognize and value the contributions the Aboriginal community has provided, and continues to provide to the city. I encourage all citizens to take part in tomorrow's events and to learn more about Aboriginal culture."

It was over a decade ago that the City recognized the need to build stronger relationships with Edmonton's Aboriginal communities. As a result, the 2005 Declaration on Strengthening Relationships with Aboriginal Peoples and the 2006 Urban Aboriginal Accord were created. The City also created one of the first dedicated municipal Aboriginal Relations Offices in Canada.

For more information:

Visit edmonton.ca/aboriginalday or call 311

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