

Healing through education

City recognizes reconciliation efforts in Edmonton schools

June 3, 2016

The City of Edmonton has formally recognized the Edmonton Public and Edmonton Catholic School Boards for incorporating reconciliation activities into schools following the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) final report in June 2015.

"The events, projects and safe places being created in the name of reconciliation in city schools is shaping our future leaders for change," said Mayor Don Iveson. "The understanding and respect for our shared history is critical in continuing to build positive relationships with Indigenous Peoples and communities."

Edmonton Public and Catholic school boards held two separate reconciliation events on June 3, 2016, before walking to City Hall to mark the one year anniversary of the final TRC report.

"At Edmonton Public Schools, we're committed to creating school communities that allow healing and reconciliation to happen, where positive relationships can flourish and all students and staff, regardless of their background, feel safe and confident," said Edmonton Public Schools Superintendent Darrel Robertson. "The District's First Nations, Métis and Inuit unit provides supports to educators so we can foster meaningful classroom conversations about residential schools and reconciliation."

"In partnership with the City of Edmonton and sister board Edmonton Public, we are proud to continue the momentum of "Walking Together" in this very special week of Reconciliation in Education," said Superintendent Joan Carr of the Edmonton Catholic School Board. "As our partnership developed in 2014 when the final National Truth and Reconciliation Conference was held in Edmonton, we made a commitment to continue to support one another to build a stronger community for all of our students and their families. Edmonton Catholic School District is honoured to come together today as a community to commemorate the past, and to celebrate our future - a future of reconciliation in education."

Incorporating the legacy of Indian Residential Schools into curriculum to educate Canadians on the impacts and trauma experienced by Indigenous people was one of the calls to actions in the final TRC report in 2015.

The City of Edmonton, Reconciliation in Solidarity Edmonton (RISE), Edmonton Public School Board, Edmonton Catholic School Board and Edmonton Public Library celebrated the one year anniversary of the TRC final report with a [week of reconciliation events](#) throughout the city.

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