

Sheralee Mitchell-MacEwan

From: Info
Subject: FW: Indigenous Survivors Day - National Blanket Ceremony Day

From: Info <info@easthants.ca>
Sent: April 13, 2026 3:27 PM
Subject: RE: Indigenous Survivors Day - National Blanket Ceremony Day

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your email request. The East Hants Proclamation Policy prohibits consideration of any specific proclamation requests.

<https://www.easthants.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Proclamation-Policy-update-2016.pdf>

However, we recognize our responsibility for Truth and Reconciliation. The East Hants Strategic Plan includes initiatives to learn more about indigenous history and awareness training for both Council members and staff. Our Council members and some of our staff participated in a very impactful Blanket Ceremony in the past and we plan on offering that opportunity to more people in the future as part of awareness training.

Currently, East Hants recognizes Indigenous Peoples Day on social media in June, and Mi'kmaw History Month in October. As well as, observing National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30 including Truth & Reconciliation Week social media. In addition, the East Hants Municipal Flag Policy was updated to include the permanent flying of the Mi'kmaq Grand Council flag.

While we are unable to consider your specific request to proclaim June 30 as Indigenous Survivors Day – National Blanket Ceremony Day, your email will be made available for all members of Council for information.

Best regards,

Sheralee



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From: Troy Abromaitis
Sent: April 12, 2026 9:33 AM
Subject: Indigenous Survivors Day - National Blanket Ceremony Day

Dear Warden and Members of Council,

I write to you today in a deeply personal capacity—this request comes from my heart and is not made on behalf of any organization or group.

On behalf of myself and my family, as Sixties Scoop survivors—myself and my late mother—I respectfully request that the Municipality of Municipality of East Hants formally proclaim June 30 as **Indigenous Survivors Day – National Blanket Ceremony Day**.

This day has already been recognized by the provinces of British Columbia, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, as well as by cities such as Surrey and Prince George. It honours the survivors of the Sixties Scoop, Millennium Scoop, birth alerts, and other systemic practices that forcibly separated First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children from their families and communities.

My own journey home to Lytton First Nation took over thirty years—a path of healing, reconnection, and profound discovery. Through that journey, I reunited with my family and came to understand the full weight of the Sixties Scoop on our lives. My late mother, who passed earlier this year, was also a survivor. One of her final wishes was that the voices of survivors—so long silenced—be heard, honoured, and lifted up in ceremony across this country.

Indigenous Survivors Day – National Blanket Ceremony Day creates space for exactly that: a day to reflect, to learn, and to honour the strength and resilience of Survivors. It is also a day to remember those who were taken, those who never returned, and those who are still finding their way home. The blanket, as a symbol of belonging, protection, and ceremony, sits at the heart of this day—wrapping Survivors in recognition, care, and community.

This initiative supports the Municipality’s commitment to reconciliation and aligns with the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), particularly the rights to identity, culture, and healing. While September 30—the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation—honours residential school survivors, there remains no dedicated day recognizing survivors of the Scoop and similar practices. June 30 offers an opportunity to respectfully fill that gap.

I would respectfully request that this be considered for inclusion on an upcoming Council agenda. I would be honoured to support this proclamation in any way that may be helpful, including sharing my story or working alongside the Municipality to help shape meaningful commemorative events.

On behalf of my mother, my family, and the many Indigenous children and families impacted by these policies, I thank you for your time, your compassion, and your leadership in considering this request.

With respect and hope,
Troy Abromaitis

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