



## **BUFFALO TRAIL PUBLIC SCHOOLS – Let’s Remember Together: National Indigenous History Month**

### **NEWS RELEASE – June 2, 2022**

This June, Buffalo Trails Public Schools will join school communities across the county to commemorate National Indigenous History Month by taking the time to celebrate the history, heritage, resilience and diversity of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples.

In the [words](#) of the Chief Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and former Senator Murray Sinclair, “reconciliation is about memorializing those who have been victims of a great wrong...it’s important to remember because we learn from it.”

Outlined in the commission’s final recommendations report, reconciliation requires sustained public dialogue, including youth engagement. As such, BTPS is committed to immersing our students in “remembering” the legacy of residential schools and the asserted control over Indigenous peoples to prevent future tragedies. Through a shared commitment to understanding Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing, we foster the attitudes, skills and knowledge needed for positive change; in other words, our role is to help our students become active global citizens who appreciate and respect intercultural diversity.

Acting on the [principles](#) and [Calls to Action](#) of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, BTPS supports learning of Indigenous education and ways of knowing through a Community of Practice (COP) comprised of a lead teacher from every school. Meeting bi-monthly, this group supports teachers across the division by coordinating professional development, identifying resources, and incorporating Indigenous pedagogy and ways of knowing into the classroom.

Our learning supports team also has built a Hapara Workspace with a large variety of Indigenous resources. As a one-stop-shop, this workspace allows BTPS teachers to quickly access ideas, lesson plans, internet resources, and professional development options that include Indigenous perspectives and are relevant to all subject areas of Alberta curricula.

Leading up to National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21, 2022, BTPS students will be engaged in a wide variety of initiatives to celebrate and honour Aboriginal peoples and their contributions to our province and country. In support of our efforts, we ask BTPS families to consider helping us “remember” by bringing Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing into their living rooms. Alberta’s ALIGN Association of Community Services has compiled “[20 Great Ways for Children, Youth, and Families to Honour and Celebrate National Indigenous Month,](#)”

offering various activities, colouring pages, games, videos, stories and more. Various municipalities, too, are offering celebrations that would make a fantastic family outing.

By remembering, we can unite as a community to foster this national agenda and build an inclusive society.