



Treaty 6 and Métis flags flying at Rocky Mountain House Town Office

Rocky Mountain House, Alta. – The Town of Rocky Mountain House celebrated National Indigenous Peoples Day by raising Treaty 6 Territory and Métis flags at the Town Office.

These flags will fly permanently alongside the flags of Canada, Alberta and the Town, as a symbol of reconciliation and an inclusive community.

“The raising of the Treaty 6 and Métis flags is a public and permanent recognition of the historical and current contributions to our community from the First Nation and Métis people, and the desire for continued and evolving partnerships to benefit all who reside within Treaty 6 Territory,” said Rocky Mountain House Mayor Tammy Burke. “This event solidifies our ongoing commitment to reconciliation, and it is a step toward building a community where racism and hate are not tolerated: A community that is working to understand the complex and painful history and acknowledging our role in ensuring long term change, in partnership and with guidance from our First Nation neighbours, without whom, our community would not be what it is today.”

Mayor Burke was joined by O’Chiese First Nation Chief Douglas Beaverbones, Sunchild First Nation Chief Jonathan Frencheater, Métis Local 845 President Bernie Ouellette and their respective councils and board members.

Elders Theresa Strawberry and Jimmy Littlejohn presided over the ceremony, with Soaring Hawk Drum Group from O’Chiese First Nation providing the Flag Honour and Victory songs.

“It’s a historic moment we have right now, raising these two flags,” said Chief Beaverbones. “I’ve faced racism many, many times. It’s not a good feeling. This reconciliation is a major thing we face daily and I hope we continue to work with each other; say Hi to each other when we go to a store and be friendly with each other. We need to start working together as one: The Nations, the Métis and the people in Town here.”

Chief Frencheater reflected on the pipe ceremony that was used in 1876 when the Treaty was first signed was the same one used in ceremony before the flag raising.

“It’s a beautiful day to see us all gather like this,” he said.

Métis Local 845 President Ouellette noted the importance of National Indigenous Peoples Day: “The is the day that all Canadians are invited to recognize and celebrate the unique culture and outstanding contributions of Indigenous peoples,” he said. “It’s fitting that this day is celebrated at the summer solstice. This is the day the sun travels its longest path across the sky. This can also be seen as symbolic of the long pathway Canada’s Indigenous peoples have had to travel toward truth and reconciliation.”

“As Métis people we proudly bear a close family kinship with our Métis relatives because they are the ones who first shared their culture and their land with us and invited our ancestors to join their family. We are proud and honoured to take part and to be included in these important community celebrations.”

Mayor Burke concluded the ceremony saying, “It’s a new day, and we’re very grateful for everyone who has shown up to this historical, significant day today.”

The Town of Rocky Mountain House wishes to acknowledge that the land on which we gather is Treaty 6 Territory and a traditional meeting ground and home for many Indigenous Peoples, including the Blackfoot, Cree, Sauteaux, Stoney and Métis.

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For more information, refer to the attached backgrounder or contact:

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Background: Treaty 6 and Métis flags flying at Rocky Mountain House Town Office

[Watch the ceremony here](#)

The ceremony was livestreamed and available on the Town of Rocky Mountain House Youtube Channel. (Ceremony begins at 10:00 minute mark)

[View and Download photos here](#)

All photos should be credited to the Town of Rocky Mountain House

Truth and Reconciliation

On [June 15, 2021](#), Rocky Mountain House Council reviewed the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Report](#) and [Calls to Action](#), and committed to taking steps towards reconciliation.

The Town of Rocky Mountain House will:

- invite Victim Services to attend Council as a Delegation, to present information on Victim Services' accessible Aboriginal-specific victim programming (Call to Action #40);
- engage with the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association regarding First Nations engagement and participation in the AUMA (Call to Action #47);
- Invite First Nation Councils from Sunchild, O'Chiese and Bighorn to participate in a joint workshop, which would include conversations of interest from each Council (Call to Action #47);
- Implement professional and educational development opportunities for municipal staff, on Indigenous history, rights, law and other applicable training (Call to Action #57);
- contact the Sixties Scoop Indigenous Society of Alberta, regarding options for their interactive displays (Call to Action #57);
- investigate hosting Indigenous Games or events at the North Saskatchewan River Park (Call to Action #88);
- ask sport leaders in the community what efforts are being made to address anti-racism awareness and training (Call to Action #90);
- send a letter to the provincial and federal governments, requesting a full report, with disclosure and release of documentation, on what actions have been taken to date on the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, as well as a timeline for fulfilling those Calls to Action, which have not been addressed to date; and
- install public land acknowledgment at the Town Office, Council Chambers and recreational facilities.