

From: Troy Abromaitis [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 11, 2025 10:07 AM
To: mayorandcouncil@salmonarm.ca; Alan Harrison <aharrison@salmonarm.ca>; Alan Harrison <aharrison@salmonarm.ca>; lwallace-richmond@salmonarm.ca; djameson@salmonarm.ca; teliason@salmonarm.ca; djohnson@salmonarm.ca; jflynn@salmonarm.ca; info <info@Salmonarm.ca>
Subject: Indigenous Survivors Day - National Blanket Ceremony Day

Dear Mayor and Members of Salmon Arm City 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 am writing to respectfully and personally request that the City of Salmon Arm formally proclaim June 30th 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, and 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. It was a path of healing, reconnection, and profound discovery. I reunited with my family and began to understand the full weight of the 60s 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 held up in ceremony across this country.

Indigenous Survivors Day – National Blanket Ceremony Day would be an opportunity for just that. A day to reflect. A day to educate. A day to honour the resilience of Survivors and remember those who were taken, those who never returned, and those still finding their way home. The blanket, as a symbol of belonging, protection, and ceremony, is at the heart of this day—wrapping Survivors in love, recognition, and community.

This initiative supports Salmon Arm’s commitments to reconciliation and aligns with the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), especially the rights to identity, culture, and healing. While September 30th—the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation—honours residential school survivors, there is no national or city-wide day specifically recognizing survivors of the Scoop and similar practices. June 30th would fill that gap.

I would be honoured to support this proclamation and contribute to its implementation, including sharing my story or working with the City to plan commemorative events.

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

With respect and hope,
Troy Abromaitis



Declaration

WHEREAS the province of New Brunswick recognizes the historical injustices endured by Indigenous peoples due to colonization, forced assimilation, and systemic injustices; and

WHEREAS Indigenous Survivors Day on June 30 provides an opportunity to acknowledge the resilience, strength, and cultural heritage of Indigenous communities who have persevered through historical traumas; and

WHEREAS designating June 30 as Indigenous Survivors Day creates a platform for healing, education, and dialogue, raising awareness about the unique struggles faced by Indigenous peoples; and

WHEREAS this observance serves as a solemn reminder of the ongoing challenges faced by Indigenous communities and highlights the importance of supporting their cultural heritage and promoting understanding; and

WHEREAS by implementing Indigenous Survivors Day on June 30, the province of New Brunswick demonstrates its commitment to honoring Indigenous survivors, promoting healing, and building a more equitable and inclusive province.

THEREFORE, I, Blaine M. Higgs, Premier of New Brunswick, do hereby declare June 30, 2024, as:

“Indigenous Survivors Day”

IN NEW BRUNSWICK

Déclaration

ATTENDU QUE le gouvernement du Nouveau-Brunswick reconnaît que les peuples autochtones ont historiquement subi des injustices en raison de la colonisation, de l'assimilation forcée et des injustices systémiques;

ATTENDU QUE la Journée des survivantes et survivants autochtones, le 30 juin, offre l'occasion de saluer la résilience, la force et le patrimoine culturel des collectivités autochtones qui ont persévéré face aux traumatismes hérités de l'histoire;

ATTENDU QUE la déclaration du 30 juin comme Journée des survivantes et survivants autochtones crée un espace propice à la guérison, à l'éducation et au dialogue en favorisant la sensibilisation aux difficultés particulières auxquelles sont confrontés les peuples autochtones;

ATTENDU QUE cette journée constitue un rappel solennel des défis auxquels sont confrontées les collectivités autochtones et souligne l'importance de promouvoir leur patrimoine culturel et de favoriser la compréhension entre les peuples;

ATTENDU QUE le gouvernement du Nouveau-Brunswick, en déclarant le 30 juin Journée des survivantes et survivants autochtones, démontre son engagement à honorer les survivantes et survivants autochtones, à promouvoir la guérison et à bâtir une province plus équitable et plus inclusive.

PAR CONSÉQUENT, je, Blaine M. Higgs, premier ministre du Nouveau-Brunswick, déclare le 30 juin 2024 comme étant la :

« Journée des survivantes et survivants autochtones »

AU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK

The Honourable Blaine M. Higgs / L'honorable Blaine M. Higgs
Premier of New Brunswick / Premier ministre du Nouveau-Brunswick



Nova Scotia

Proclamation

Indigenous Survivors Day

- WHEREAS** *the province of Nova Scotia recognizes the historical injustices endured by Indigenous peoples due to colonization, forced assimilation, and systemic injustices.*
- WHEREAS** *Indigenous Survivors Day on June 30 provides an opportunity to acknowledge the resilience, strength, and cultural heritage of Indigenous communities who have persevered through historical traumas.*
- WHEREAS** *designating June 30 as Indigenous Survivors Day creates a platform for healing, education, and dialogue, raising awareness about the unique struggles faced by Indigenous peoples.*
- WHEREAS;** *this observance serves as a solemn reminder of the ongoing challenges faced by Indigenous communities and highlights the importance of supporting their cultural heritage and promoting understanding.*
- WHEREAS;** *by implementing Indigenous Survivors Day on June 30, the province of Nova Scotia demonstrates its commitment to honoring Indigenous survivors, promoting healing, and building a more equitable and inclusive province.*

THEREFORE I, Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia, do hereby proclaim June 30th to be "Indigenous Survivors Day" in the Province of Nova Scotia.



Tim Houston

Honourable Tim Houston, M.L.A.
Premier of Nova Scotia

Signed at Halifax, Nova Scotia



Canada
Province of British Columbia

A Proclamation

CHARLES THE THIRD, by the Grace of God, King of Canada
and His other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth

To all to whom these presents shall come – Greeting

WHEREAS the government of British Columbia acknowledges the many historical injustices that Indigenous Peoples in Canada have endured resulting from colonization and forced assimilation, and

WHEREAS the government of British Columbia recognizes the resilience and strength of all Indigenous survivors who were forcibly removed from their homes, families, and communities under the mandate of colonial programs and initiatives that operated in British Columbia, and

WHEREAS the observance of June 30 as Indigenous Survivors Day creates a platform for raising awareness and fostering understanding through education and dialogue as well as advocating for reconciliation and healing for Indigenous survivors, their families, and communities, and

WHEREAS Indigenous Survivors Day is a solemn reminder of the ongoing challenges faced by Indigenous survivors and their communities and highlights the importance of supporting Indigenous cultural heritage as well as a more inclusive and equitable province;

NOW KNOW YE THAT We do by these presents proclaim and declare that June 30, 2024, shall be known as

“Indigenous Survivors Day”

in the Province of British Columbia.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent and the Great Seal of Our Province of British Columbia to be hereunto affixed.

WITNESS, The Honourable Janet Austin, Lieutenant Governor of Our Province of British Columbia, in Our City of Victoria, in Our Province, this twenty-fifth day of April, two thousand twenty-four and in the second year of Our Reign.

BY COMMAND.

Attorney General

Lieutenant Governor



Lytton First Nation

March 19, 2023

From: Chief Janet Webster
Lytton First Nation
951 Main Street
Lytton, BC V0K 1Z0

RE: Reference Letter – Troy MacBeth Abromaitis, Lytton First Nation Member

Troy MacBeth Abromaitis is a passionate advocate for Indigenous community building, economic reconciliation and has been pivotal in the Nation's rebuilding efforts after the wildfires and flooding which affecting the Fraser Canyon and our communities in 2021. I first met Troy in 2018, at a Chief and Council meeting, where he sincerely reflected on his emotional homecoming and spoke about his 35-year journey to reconnect with his family, people, culture and community. His journey home brought tears to our eyes. He was born on August 27, 1983, in Vancouver, British Columbia, and is a sixties scoop survivor.

He is a descendant of the Thom, Oates, Draney and Drynock families of the Nlaka'pamux Nation. He was raised by his adoptive parents Theresa and Vytas Abromaitis in Richmond, British Columbia and returned to his ancestral territory of Lytton, British Columbia for the first time five years ago. He is a business professional specializing in real estate development and home building.

Troy is truly inspired when it comes to his involvement in the Indigenous community and our community greatly benefits from his passion for giving back. He also has a genuine desire to help, in a good way, and this has been demonstrated time and time again. Troy's fundraising efforts were heartfelt, and his dedication had a profound impact, when it came to help rebuild his community. Troy worked as President of the Rotary Club, with various corporations and other First Nations on coordinated fundraising efforts.

His leadership also inspired numerous other fundraisers and donations within the real estate development and home building industry, non-profit sector, and other organizations which Troy actively contributes. These fundraising campaigns raised several hundred thousand dollars towards the community and benefited the Nation with both significant donations of building materials and professional expertise from housing industry professionals.

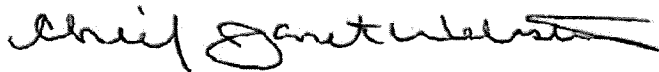
He also serves on the Economic Development Corporation Board with Lytton First Nation to further contribute and benefit his communities rebuilding efforts. Prior to his involvement on the fundraising and building side, Troy was actively involved with the implementation of the land code program and community planning, for our 14,161 acres of land divided into 56 reserves, and was designed as our primary real estate professional through a band council resolution. We trust Troy's twenty years of real estate experience and his strategic and conciliatory approach has been invaluable to our band.

We are incredibly proud of Troy's accomplishments and the remarkable journey he has made to reconnect with and help his community. His gift for community building and collaborative relationships have been celebrated through a variety of awards. Troy was named as a Top 40 Under 40 by the National Centre for American Indian Enterprise, received the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal from the province of British Columbia and was selected for a National Philanthropy and Community Service Award by the Canadian Mortgage Awards.

Troy Abromaitis is a sixties scoop survivor, successful businessman and philanthropist who has left an indelible impact on Lytton First Nation. He has a passion for social entrepreneurship, believing that business and society can work together toward common goals. He is a community builder, respected Lytton leader and has made many outstanding contributions to the community. We are extremely proud to have him as a member of our Nation and he is also making his ancestor's proud.

Sincerely,

LYTTON FIRST NATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chief Janet Webster", written in a cursive style.

Chief Janet Webster