At City Council’s meeting on September 29, 2021 Mayor Eisenberger acknowledged September 30 as Orange Shirt Day / National Day for Truth and Reconciliation with the following letter from the Aboriginal Advisory Committee regarding the Residential School Findings being shared with Council:

We the members of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee for the City of Hamilton acknowledge with sadness the discovery made at Kamloops BC. Since this discovery, other sites suspected of being “burial grounds” of our children have been found. According to various online NEWS sites such as YouTube documentaries, APTN News, and other reputable News sources/ agencies, the number of souls and spirits found have grown to over 6500 and more are expected to be found at other sites which have yet to be identified and searched. We the undersigned stand united with our Indigenous brothers and sisters in shared sorrow, frustration and anger. Recrimination does not absolve responsibility. Those responsible for this tragedy – Church and State - must acknowledge that it happened and take responsibility for their part and actions. There must be accountability, accepted responsibility, closure and a pathway to healing inspired and guided by the souls of the children. Wherever this pathway leads it should reflect positively on the memories of the victims of these atrocities. Be it the establishment of Native Learning Centers for clean water, natural resource management, adequate safe housing, health center facilities, cultural centers and greenhouse development for food adequacy. These are long neglected areas and this time of healing should free us all from victimization and state supported cruelty. This will not erase the memories of the devastation, hurt and harm realized by the self-proclaimed sanctity of these religious orders and government upon our youngest and most vulnerable human beings. “You can’t assimilate and kill the red that runs in our blood”

#Every Child Matters

Respectfully submitted,

Aboriginal Advisory Committee

Revised September 22, 2021