



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

Statement from Chair Sperling on National Day of Awareness for MMIWG2S+

May 5, 2024, is not only a day of remembrance, but also a call to action. The National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People, also known as Red Dress Day, is a stark reminder of the systemic issues that continue to impact our communities.

The historical trauma inflicted by residential schools and the 60s scoop, coupled with socio-economic conditions such as poverty, sexism, racism, and discrimination, have contributed to a disproportionate level of violence against Indigenous women and gender diverse individuals.

The comprehensive 1,200-page report released by the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in May 2019 is a testament to this ongoing issue. With over 230 recommendations, it concluded that the murder and disappearance of Indigenous women and girls is an ongoing genocide.

The Peace River Regional District (PRRD) is committed to addressing these systemic issues. We believe in fostering strong partnerships based on open communication with our First Nations neighbours. Our zero-tolerance policy for racism and discrimination is a testament to our commitment to change.

The flags at the Dawson Creek office are lowered in memory of those we have lost, and we raise a ceremonial red dress to open the Regional Board Meeting on May 2, 2024, as a pledge to those who are still with us, to symbolize our commitment to this cause.

Our goal is to foster a deeper understanding and respect for Indigenous cultures and histories, and to work together to address the systemic issues that contribute to this ongoing crisis.

Let's all remember this day as a call to action, and to reaffirm our commitment to creating a society where everyone is treated with dignity and respect. Together, we can make a difference.

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diverse. vast. abundant.