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September 7, 2021

To: All CRPS Staff and All CRPS Families

From: CRPS Board of Trustees

Re: September 30th National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

CRPS senior administration has been in consultation with local Elders from the Stoney Nakoda Nation. This discussion helped us to understand the Elders' thoughts regarding the **September 30th** day of observance. The TRC's #80 Calls to Action states that,

"We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, to establish, as a statutory holiday, a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to honour Survivors, their families, and communities, and ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process."

Both the Elders and CRPS senior administration agreed that it was important for all of our students to understand the significance of this day and the TRC Calls to Action. This was helpful as we were able to discuss the perceptions surrounding this day, as well as the challenges associated with changing the 2021-2022 calendar that was created last school year. Our local Stoney Nakoda Elders are a wealth of knowledge and assist the school division in many ways.

Together with the local Elders, we concluded that it was important to recognize September 30th as a statutory holiday to honour the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. We would also like to support our schools in using the afternoon of September 29th for teaching and learning opportunities to honour the TRC and their Calls to Action.

In order for this change to take place, an adjustment is required to the 2021-2022 school calendar to accommodate the number of provincially mandated instructional hours in a given year.

At the Public School Board Special Meeting held on September 7th, 2021, the Board of Trustees approved Canadian Rockies Public Schools closing for September 30th, 2021 with the appropriate adjustment made to the 2021-2022 school calendar to accommodate the provincially mandated instructional hours. By making the 30th day of September a holiday, CRPS is standing beside our neighboring Stoney Nakoda Nation and aligning with our other educational partners, as well as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to honour Survivors, their families and communities.

In addition the Board approves supporting Canadian Rockies Public Schools using the afternoon of September 29th for teaching and learning opportunities to honour the TRC and their Calls to Action. A program of events for the afternoon of September 29th will be shared in the near future.