



# MAYOR'S DECLARATION

WHEREAS at the confluence of the Assiniboine and Red Rivers the First Peoples of this land cared for the well-being of land, waters, and people, Winnipeg is Treaty One land, and the traditional homeland of the Métis Nation;

AND WHEREAS Aboriginal people were isolated from their traditional and spiritual ways. This is exemplified by the many thousands of Aboriginal children who were forcibly removed from their homes and taken to residential schools;

AND WHEREAS for over 100 years more than 150,000 First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children in Canada were removed from their families eliminating parental involvement in their spiritual, cultural, and intellectual development;

AND WHEREAS the cumulative impact of residential schools is a legacy of unresolved trauma passed from generation to generation and has had a profound effect on the relationship between Aboriginal peoples and other Canadians;

AND WHEREAS this harm extended to all communities, Aboriginal peoples and all Canadians, and has extended over time, with the ongoing impact of residential schools felt throughout the generations;

AND WHEREAS reconciliation is an opportunity for us to advance with a greater understanding of the historical impacts that have shaped the experiences of Aboriginal people to date. It will not right the wrongs of the past, but it continues our journey, together with a deep respect for human dignity;

AND WHEREAS it is important that Winnipeggers of every culture and tradition share the same opportunities to realize their full potential, recognizing that we are connected to each other and to this land;

AND WHEREAS various activities promoting reconciliation, and embracing diversity and racial inclusion will be held throughout the year 2016 in the City of Winnipeg;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRIAN BOWMAN, Mayor of the City of Winnipeg, in the Province of Manitoba, do hereby declare January 22, 2016 to January 21, 2017 as:

## **THE YEAR OF RECONCILIATION**

DATED at Winnipeg, this 22nd day of January, 2016.



Brian Bowman  
MAYOR