PROCLAMATION

Red Dress Day

WHEREAS: First Nations, Inuit, and Métis women face violence at far higher rates than non-Indigenous women. Although they make up only five percent of Canada's population, Indigenous women are three times more likely to experience violence, six times more likely to be killed, and account for half of all human trafficking victims. They are twelve times more likely to go missing or be murdered, and with an average age of just 30, two-thirds remain missing.

Approximately 61 percent of Indigenous women have experienced intimate partner violence (IPV) in their lifetime, with that rate rising to 86 percent for those who identify as 2SLGBTQIA+. Indigenous women are three times more likely to experience IPV during pregnancy and make up 22 percent of all women killed by an intimate partner.

In 2010, Métis artist Jaime Black created the first REDress Project installation, hanging red dresses in public spaces to highlight the epidemic of violence against Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit people, and the urgent need for action.

Following the 2018 Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), which issued recommendations for all Canadians and governments, the City of Brampton endorsed the Calls to Justice in 2019 as part of its ongoing commitment to reconciliation.

On Tuesday, May 5th at 10:00 AM, the Equity Office in partnership with the Indigenous Network, Algoma University, and Peel Regional Police, will unveil the Red Dress Day installation in Ken Whillans Square. It will remain on display throughout May, alongside installations at Flower City Community Campus, the Youth Hub, and Brampton Fire locations.

THEREFORE: I, Mayor Patrick Brown, on behalf of Brampton City Council, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2026, as "Red Dress Day" in the City of Brampton.

Mayor Patrick Brown, City of Brampton