



Holy Spirit First Nations, Metis, and Inuit

June 2020

National Indigenous Peoples Day

“The first-and most important-step towards understanding Aboriginal [Indigenous] history is to recognize that Aboriginal [Indigenous] people are strong people. In spite of the severity of the many issues that individual families and communities face, Aboriginal [Indigenous] people are demonstrating their resiliency. (Our Words, Our Ways, Alberta Education (2005) pg. 2

What does Indigenous Peoples Day look like in pandemic times? This year has been uncertain for the whole world and in our Holy Spirit schools, much of the work and Indigenous celebrations that would occur during the month of June for students and families have had to be cancelled. We recognize the many ways that families and communities are coming together to keep the spirit of this day/week relevant in our times. The City of Lethbridge is offering the following virtual experiences:

- June 15 Flag Raising at City Hall (Virtual)
- June 16 Screening of Making an Elder with Q&A (Virtual) - Visit EventBrite under 'Lethbridge Elder' for Tickets
- June 21 Fast Horse by SAAG (Virtual) see website for details



[National Indigenous Peoples Day](#)

A brief history of National Aboriginal Day:

1982: National Indian Brotherhood (now the Assembly of First Nations) calls for the creation of National Aboriginal Solidarity Day on June 21.

1990: Quebec legislature recognizes June 21 as a day to celebrate aboriginal culture.

1995: The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples recommends the designation of a National First Peoples Day. The Sacred Assembly, a national conference of aboriginal and non-aboriginal people chaired by Elijah Harper, calls for a national holiday to celebrate the contributions of Canada's Aboriginal Peoples.

1996: June 13: Gov. Gen. Roméo LeBlanc declares June 21 as National Aboriginal Day after consultations with various aboriginal groups. The inaugural day is celebrated with events from coast to coast to coast.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news2/background/aboriginals/aboriginalday.html>

2017: On 21 June 2017, Canadian Prime Minister [Justin Trudeau](#) released a statement pledging to rename the event **National Indigenous Peoples Day**. [Assembly of First Nations](#) National Chief [Perry Bellegarde](#) supported the proposed change, called it an "important step,"

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Indigenous_Peoples_Day#:~:text=The%20day%20was%20first%20celebrated,celebrated%20annually%20on%20June%202021.

Statistics on Indigenous People can be found at the following sites: [Statistics on Indigenous peoples](#)

[National Indigenous Peoples Day in Canada](#)

[National Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations | Alberta.ca](#)