

Hello everyone,

This week I wanted to start off by talking a bit about a Proclamation that I made at our last council meeting. I declared this Canada Day to be in recognition of a very special person who left us way too early. Of course, I'm talking about my former Deputy Mayor Colleen Mckee. Given the pandemic we haven't been able to properly recognize Colleen for her passion, love and commitment to our community.

My councilors and City Administration suggested that recognizing this Canada Day as Colleen's Day would be very appropriate. This day marks not only her birthday, but it was also one of her most cherished holidays. She loved the annual parade and her creativity always surfaced when thinking about a theme for the City float. Colleen committed 14 years of above and beyond service to our community and you could see she had plans for many more. She shared with me her hope that she would take the Mayor's chair in the near future and I have no doubt she would have done that. Unfortunately, after a short battle with cancer that dream was cut short. We hope this day will serve as a reminder to all of her devotion to Flin Flon. Without Colleen, we simply would not be where we are today. I can safely say, her unique outlook and passion will never be replaced.

With respect to her love for the holiday and to everyone else experiencing cabin fever over the past year, we have also decided to proceed with the Annual Canada Day Parade sponsored by Northlands Ford. Thanks to your diligent behavior, new case numbers have dropped and restrictions have begun to loosen. This has granted us the opportunity to slowly ease back into some of our cherished community events such as the Parade and the Fireworks. With that in mind, we hope that you will as individuals adhere to social distancing and all the other basics necessary for us to continue our progress towards reopening.

With the new, more virulent strain presenting itself, it is very important we don't jump back into old habits too quickly or we risk going backwards rather than forwards.

I want to reiterate, if you have yet to be vaccinated please do so as soon as possible. If not for yourself than please do it for your loved ones, your friends and your community. Once everyone in our community is vaccinated, the chance of another massive spike in cases is slim to none. I understand, this is a serious decision for some and respect that no one should force you to put something into your body that you don't want but if it is something that you may consider doing in the future when you want to travel, I would encourage you to consider doing it now rather than later.

Let's end where we started, if you wish to enter a float in the Canada Day Parade please fill out the form available on our website and submit it to the attached address no later than June 28<sup>th</sup> 2021.

Show patience, be kind and stay safe Flin Flon.

Hope to see you there!

Mayor Cal Huntley.