

**INVITATION 5 TO CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR AND WARD COUNCILOR
IN PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY
SEPTEMBER 20, 2022**

Truth and Reconciliation

September 30 marks Canada's second annual [National Day for Truth and Reconciliation](#) – a day that "honours the children who never returned home and Survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities."

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's [94 Calls to Action](#) include calls to municipal governments that apply to County Council:

- to adopt and implement the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) as the framework for reconciliation (CTA 43)
- to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous peoples and lands, such as the [Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius](#), and to reform those laws, government policies, and litigation strategies that continue to rely on such concepts (CTA 47)
- to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal-Crown relations (CTA 57)

In light of increasing concern over a lack of effort and progress on the *Calls to Action* generally, the Canadian government is establishing a [National Council for Reconciliation](#) to "*monitor, evaluate and report on reconciliation efforts, including the implementation of the Calls to Action, as well as be a catalyst for innovative thought, dialogue and action.*"

Against this background,

1. Please rate your level of agreement with the following:

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither disagree or agree	Agree	Strongly agree
Council should adopt a Strategic Initiative to respond to Calls to Action 43, 47 and 57.					

2. Please explain your rating.

Transparency and Privacy

The [Municipal Act](#) requires Council “to ensure the accountability and transparency of the operations of the municipality, including the activities of the senior management of the municipality.” To this end, [Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act \(MFIPPA\)](#) gives everyone the right to access County records – with certain exemptions that are meant to protect privacy.

I recently asked the Clerk about the annual requests for County records – and the County’s responses – and was advised that there’s no public register of requests for County records, such as other municipalities (e.g. [Oshawa](#) and [Newmarket](#)) provide. I was also advised that the County may consider developing a policy for routine disclosure and/or active dissemination of County records in the future.

For candidates who want to learn more about the routine disclosure and active dissemination of records, I’d recommend: The Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (2022). [Considerations for establishing routine disclosure and active dissemination](#).

Against this background,

3. Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements:

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither disagree or agree	Agree	Strongly agree
(a) The cost of maintaining a public register of requests for County records would likely outweigh its benefits.					
(b) The cost of the routine disclosure of County records would likely outweigh its benefits.					
(c) The cost of the active dissemination of County records would likely outweigh its benefits.					

4. For any **one** of your ratings above, please describe your analysis of the different costs and benefits that lead to your conclusion (max. 500 words).

Please email your responses by 8 pm on Monday, September 26, 2022.

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with voters.