

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation 2024

September 27th 2024 Regina Smudge Walk.

We also have established a partnership with Co-operators. Co-operators have gifted us with \$390,000. And this is going to the career center for work integrated learning. And so in this learning center what we're doing is we are preparing our students for the workforce and we are preparing the workforce for our students.

So, I'm truly humbled to be here today to see our company's commitment to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's call to action 92 to transform into real action.

You know, for me, it comes back to our values. Responsibility, integrity and inclusion. You think about truth and reconciliation, it completely lines up in terms of responsibility. It lines up in terms of inclusion and our IDEA strategy. And it kind of goes full circle when you think about, you know, today we've been learning about the impact of residential schools and part of our work here today is to help support youth in terms of their future.

It was such a meaningful and emotional day and we did it to honor residential school students that didn't come home, but also those students that survived. And then to have the energy of the 200 plus high school students walk with us was incredible because it reminds us of the responsibility that we have to Indigenous youth today.

The career center is important because it gives our students real world experience and, you know, an opportunity to really engage with the industry. A lot of our students have that wish or that dream of working in First Nation business, or First Nation governance or First Nation education or different things like that. But there's a world outside of our First Nation economy that they need to be able to participate in too. And so, getting that experience through these partnerships is really important in creating, new avenues for them, new ideas about what they can do when they come out of university.

September 30th 2024 Honour Walk. Co-hosted by The Circle Project, Regina Work Prep and Co-operators.

It's a pretty emotional day. Like my mom went to residential school. So she's a survivor, and I've seen the intergenerational or the trauma that has happened, generation over generation right. And I'm a result of that as well.

There's a lot of pride working for the Co-operators and seeing the dedication and the passion from the staff towards reconciliation. You see out there today, you know, six degrees, raining, you know, 50 plus wind gusts feeling like zero degrees out there. And the staff are still coming out to volunteer to help out and then doing the walk and, and that means that means a lot.

The company did start back in Regina, I think, 79 years ago, head office is in Guelph, but I think the population is 20% Indigenous within Saskatchewan. And it's just extremely meaningful to really work to ensure we're participating with the community and giving equal opportunity to everybody. We're going to be stronger together at the end of the day.