

INDIGENOUS SURVIVORS DAY

JUNE 30, 2025
CITY HALL & HILLCREST PARK

PART I: PROCLAMATION SIGNING & FLAG RAISING CEREMONY

Location: City Hall

Time: 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

10:00 AM – Opening Ceremony

- Smudging Ceremony & Opening Prayer
Led by IAC Elder Tony (Anthony) DePerry to begin the day in a good way

10:15 AM – Welcome Remarks

- Welcome and Introduction of Dignitaries
- Land Acknowledgement & Opening Remarks

10:25 AM – Proclamation Signing Ceremony

- Remarks by the Mayor, followed by reading of the Indigenous Survivors Proclamation
- Signing of the Proclamation by the Mayor
- Signing by an IAC Member/Survivor Family Member – Kim Hillman as a witness

10:40 AM – Flag Raising Ceremony

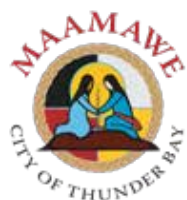
- Indigenous Survivors Flag is raised
- Drumming – Led by St. Joseph Residential School Survivor and Elder Myria Esquega

10:50 AM – Survivor Reflection

- Words from a Survivor – Ira Johnson
- A Moment of Silence or Reflection

11:00 AM – Transition to Hillcrest Park

- Attendees invited to visit displays and continue the gathering at Hillcrest Park



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PART II: COMMUNITY GATHERING

Location: Hillcrest Park

Time: 12:00 PM

12:00 PM – Opening Ceremony

12:20 PM – Leadership Reflections

12:30 PM – Flag Raising & Cultural Honouring

- Calling All Drums – Songs led by SJIRS Survivor and Elder Myria Esquega

12:45 PM – Survivor Reflection

- Remarks – Indian Residential School Survivor/ Elder
- Moment of Silence or Reflection

1:00 PM – Sacred Fire & Closing Reflections

- Led by Traditional Knowledge Keeper and IAC Member David Wilkinson-Simard, Shkaabe – Sean Stevens

EDUCATION & AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

All-Day Educational Displays

- Residential School Timeline Display
City Hall – 500 Donald St. E, Lobby | 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM
- Residential School Survivor Exhibit
Nishnawbe Aski Nation – 200 Syndicate Ave, Main Board Room | 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Thunder Bay Museum – 425 Donald Street East | 11:00AM – 5:00 PM

Workshops & Community Information Booths

Location: Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) – 200 Syndicate Ave, Main Board Room

Information & Interactive Booths (3:00 PM – 6:00 PM)

Workshops (5:00 PM – 6:00 PM)

- Teachings on Indigenous Histories & Intergenerational Impacts
Facilitator: Rachel Kakegamic, Director of Reclamation and Healing, NAN
(No registrations required – Walk-ins Welcome)
- Healing Through Art
Facilitator: Ira Johnson, Residential Day School Survivor and Local Artist
Four 15-minute sessions: 5:00 PM | 5:15 PM | 5:30 PM | 5:45 PM
(No registration required – Walk-ins welcome)