

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS Canada is a socially, culturally, and ethnically diverse nation comprising many peoples and communities; and
- WHEREAS in 2015, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2014–2024 as the International Decade for People of African Descent, with the theme of recognition, justice, and development; and
- **WHEREAS** across generations, Black Canadians have demonstrated profound courage and resilience to help shape Canada for the better; and
- **WHEREAS** many Black Canadians serve communities and the nation at every level, and are contributors to the advancement of all sectors of society; and
- **WHEREAS** Black Canadians in the region are recognizing this 10th anniversary of celebrating Black life, history and culture in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo; and
- **WHEREAS** it is important to raise awareness of the historic and ongoing struggles of Black Canadians for fair treatment and equal opportunity; and
- WHEREAS Black History Month is a time to acknowledge the leadership of Black Canadians and their commitment to justice and initiatives to help end racism and discrimination; and
- WHEREAS Black Canadian organizations in the region invite all residents to join them in recognizing February 2024 as Black History Month and to celebrate the experiences and achievements of all Black Canadians and peoples of African descent.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Sandy Bowman, Mayor of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, do hereby proclaim **February 2024**, as:

"BLACK HISTORY MONTH

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunder set my hand and caused to be affixed the seal of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo in Fort McMurray, Alberta, this 23rd day of January 2024.

Sandy Bowman

Mayor