

**local news****Official denim day proclaimed**

AMANDA RICHARDSON  
Today staff

Denim Day has received a boost with Mayor Melissa Blake officially recognizing the day in Fort McMurray.

"May 12 is officially Fort McMurray's Denim Day, the day when we commemorate those who've been assaulted sexually and also try and help prevent this happening, so this will be the awareness day for people to find out information," said Mary Thomas, community awareness and special events co-ordinator with the Fort McMurray Family Crisis Society.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month is recognized nationally each May, with many cities and towns across Canada recognizing a particular day of awareness.

Blake's proclamation reads that the recognition comes in light of the FMFCS drawing attention to "the fact that sexual violence is wide spread, has public health implications for every community member of the Regional Municipality

of Wood Buffalo ... that one in five women will have experienced sexual assault by the time they complete college ... and not tolerated in the municipality or the country as a whole.

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whereas there is compelling evidence that leadership, dedication and encouragement can reduce sexual violence in the community through prevention, education, increased awareness and holding perpetrators responsible for their actions," amongst a myriad of other reasons.

The proclamation will serve as an annual reminder that acts of sexual violence and aggression are

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