

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

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NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION STATUTORY HOLIDAY INTRODUCED INTO LEGISLATION

On February 7, 2023, the [BC Government](#) introduced [Bill 2 -2023, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Act \(Bill 2\)](#) which will make National Day for Truth and Reconciliation a provincial statutory holiday once it passes. The BC Government has chosen the same date (September 30th) as the federal government to observe the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. If passed, British Columbia will join Canada, Prince Edward Island, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and the Yukon as jurisdictions that have designated September 30 as a statutory holiday.

Background

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation has been a federal statutory holiday since 2021. In BC, provincial public-sector employers, including public schools, as well as organizations bound by collective agreements which have clauses requiring them to recognize federal statutory holidays, have also observed the federal holiday on September 30, since 2021. In 2022, the Province consulted with Indigenous partners and communities across BC, about how best to recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. These groups communicated that the creation of a new provincial statutory holiday is a way for people to participate in events on the day and publicly acknowledge the history and harms of the residential school system.

What are the next steps?

As of February 7, 2023, [Bill 2 – 2023 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Act](#), has gone through first reading and will now move to second reading. If passed, the *Employment Standards Act* (ESA) will also be amended. RES will continue to monitor the progress of this bill and provide subsequent updates as they arise.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any comments or questions about this update, please e-mail RES360@metrovancover.org or call 604-451-6558.

SOURCES

“B.C. will formally recognize National Day for Truth and Reconciliation” – BC Gov News.

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2023IRR0006-000152>

“Progress of Bills” – Legislative Assembly of British Columbia.

<https://www.leg.bc.ca/parliamentary-business/legislation-debates-proceedings/42nd-parliament/4th-session/bills/progress-of-bills>