

# LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

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## September 30 Designated National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Further to the [Legislative Briefing titled National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Statutory Holiday Introduced into Legislation](#) published on February 7, 2023, [Bill 2 -2023](#), *National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Act (Bill 2)* passed third reading and received Royal Assent on March 9, 2023. There were no substantive changes to the proposed legislation between first and third reading.

British Columbia now joins Canada, Prince Edward Island, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and the Yukon as jurisdictions that have enshrined September 30 each year as National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to commemorate the history and legacy of the residential school system.

### Provincial Legislation

The legislation recognizes the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation as a public holiday in BC and adds it to the list of statutory holidays observed under the *Employment Standards Act*.

The statutory holiday applies to all provincially regulated BC employers who will be required to treat the new statutory holiday in the same manner as other statutory holidays. Provincially regulated BC employers will need to provide eligible employees with a paid day off work, or provide pay at premium rates if employees are required to perform work on the new statutory holiday beginning this year and every year thereafter.

In unionized workplaces, the effect of the legislation will depend on the specific language in the collective agreement. Such benefits must “meet or exceed” the provisions of the *Employment Standards Act*.

### QUESTIONS?

If you have any comments or questions about this update, please e-mail [RES360@metrovanancouver.org](mailto:RES360@metrovanancouver.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>

*“Bill 2 – 2023: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Act”* – Legislative Assembly of British Columbia -

<https://www.leg.bc.ca/parliamentary-business/legislation-debates-proceedings/42nd-parliament/4th-session/bills/third-reading/gov02-3>