



ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT
REGIONAL DISTRICT
3008- 5th Ave, Port Alberni, V9Y 2E3

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
August 30, 2021

ACRD Recognizes September 30th - National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

On June 3, 2021, Bill C-5, *An Act to amend the Bills of Exchange Act, the Interpretation Act and the Canada Labour Code* (National Day for Truth and Reconciliation) received royal assent and came into force on August 3, 2021. On August 3, 2021, the BC Government formally recognized September 30th as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in alignment with the legislation. This year, September 30th will be observed as a provincial and federal statutory holiday.

September 30th was chosen as the date for the holiday because it builds on the grassroots movement Orange Shirt Day, which is a day to remember the legacy of residential schools and move forward with reconciliation. September has historically been a painful month for Indigenous families and communities because it is the time when children were separated from their loved ones and communities when they went back to residential school. This day provides the opportunity to recognize and commemorate the history and legacy of residential schools. This may present itself as a day of quiet reflection or participation in a community event.

The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) Board of Directors, at their regular meeting on August 25, 2021 resolved to recognize September 30th as an annual holiday to commemorate the history and legacy of residential schools as well as honour the survivors, their families and communities. The ACRD will also collaborate with local First Nations and community leaders to explore ways to respectfully mark Truth and Reconciliation Day in the region annually.

“Having a day dedicated to remembering our true history and for renewing our resolve to live together in understanding is vitally important in this increasingly partisan world of identity-based politics. A National Day for Truth and Reconciliation could help all Canadians take the time, not just take an extra day off from work, but to learn and remember what it takes to harm an entire people and to destroy trust for generations. If we can do that, and do it together, we can continue to rebuild trust in ways that will open up new opportunities for all Canadians”, stated Chairperson John Jack.

“The ACRD Board of Directors and staff will use the opportunity of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation as a moment to pause and honor the survivors, mourn all the children who never made it home and continue to raise awareness of the history of residential schools. The ACRD Board of Directors are fully committed to staying engaged in the process of truth and reconciliation and continue to work with the Provincial Government pursuing Inclusive Governance to allow non-treaty nations full participation in regional district services”, stated Acting CAO Teri Fong.

As part of the formal recognition, the ACRD office will be closed for the day. This will include ACRD Services such as the Alberni Valley Landfill, West Coast Landfill, and the Recycling Depot.

The ACRD Board has representation from four Maa-nulth Treaty Nations; Huu-ay-aht First Nations, Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government, Uchucklesaht Tribe Government and Toquaht Nation. The ACRD is within the territory of ten First Nations, being Ahousaht, Ditidaht, Hesquiaht, Hupacasath, Tla-o-qui-aht, and Tseshaht in addition to the four Treaty First Nations that are ACRD federation members.

For Further Information, please contact:

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