

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF YUKON

First Session of the
Thirty-fifth Legislative Assembly

BILL NO. 305

NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION ACT

First Reading:

Second Reading:

Committee of the Whole:

Third Reading:

Assented to:

NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION ACT

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This enactment establishes National Day for Truth and Reconciliation as a general holiday to take place on September 30 in every year.

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NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION ACT

Preamble

Whereas

The colonial experience in Canada has constituted genocide against Indigenous people;

The residential school system was a key component of this genocide;

Every community in the Yukon has been directly impacted by the legacy of residential schools;

The final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada has laid out 94 calls to action, including call-to-action number 80 to establish, as a statutory holiday, a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to honour children who never returned home, survivors, their families, and communities;

Public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools is vital to advancing the process of reconciliation; and

In 2021, the Government of Canada proclaimed September 30 as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

The Commissioner of Yukon, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly, enacts as follows

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation established

1 September 30 of each year is to be known as “National Day for Truth and Reconciliation” and is to be observed as a holiday.

***Employment Standards Act* amended**

2 The definition “general holiday” in subsection 1(1) of the *Employment Standards Act* is replaced with the following

“general holiday” means New Year’s Day, Good Friday, Victoria Day, National Aboriginal Day, Canada Day, Discovery Day, Labour Day, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Thanksgiving Day, Remembrance Day and Christmas Day and includes any day substituted for any such general holiday pursuant to subsection 29(2) or 35(1); « *jour férié* ».

***Interpretation Act* amended**

3 The definition “holiday” in subsection 21(1) of the *Interpretation Act* is replaced with the following

“holiday” includes Sunday, New Year’s Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Victoria Day, National Aboriginal Day, Canada Day, Discovery Day (being the third Monday in August), Labour Day, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Remembrance Day, Christmas Day,

the birthday or the day prescribed for the celebration of the birthday of the reigning sovereign, and any other day appointed by proclamation for a general fast or thanksgiving, and whenever a holiday other than Remembrance Day falls on a Sunday, the expression "holiday" includes the following day; « *jour férié* ».
