

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

RE: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – All Schools Closed on September 30, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In June, the federal government announced that 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), had received Royal Assent and that the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation would be observed by federal government employees and by federally regulated workplaces every year, starting on September 30, 2021. All Provinces and Territories would need to enact subsequent legislation if they wished other employees within their province/territory to also observe these days.

The BC government has since declared September 30, 2021, a holiday for all provincial public sector employees, including public school districts. This means that on Thursday, September 30, 2021, all Greater Victoria School District schools and the School Board Office will be closed.

This is a day for all of us to reflect, learn, and take action on what we can do to honour the Spirit of Truth and Reconciliation. The District remains committed to doing this across all areas of the District. We will be working alongside our Indigenous Education Department to ensure our work has a culturally responsive lens.

The provincial government will begin engaging with Indigenous partners, and the business and labour communities to determine the most appropriate way to commemorate this day going forward.

For more information visit: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021FIN0048-001531>

Please note that further details will be coming shortly regarding September start-up plans. In the meantime, please continue to enjoy a safe and restful summer.

Sincerely,



Deb Whitten

Interim Superintendent

Greater Victoria School District No. 61

The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.