



OPFFA

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ONTARIO PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

September 28, 2021

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Hon. Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Re: Provincial Holiday Honouring Truth and Reconciliation

Dear Premier Ford,

As President of the Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association (OPFFA), I am writing on behalf of Ontario's 11,000 professional firefighters, to state that we stand in solidarity with the Indigenous peoples in pursuit of justice. Statutory holidays are recognized in this province and across this nation, to allow all of us to pause and reflect on the issues that matter most on that given day. We ask that you declare and establish a statutory holiday for Truth and Reconciliation.

On May 28, 2021, the Parliament of Canada voted to recognize September 30 as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The OPFFA joins the call to establish a provincial statutory holiday to commemorate the legacy of Canada's residential school system, and to ensure that our tragic history is never forgotten.

Like so many Ontarians, the OPFFA is deeply disturbed by the recent discovery of mass graves near the sites of several former residential schools. In light of these discoveries, and in the pursuit of truth and reconciliation, we all need to pause to honour the victims, the survivors, their families and communities.

Reconciling with Indigenous communities is our shared responsibility. The OPFFA has proudly established September 30th as a holiday for our staff to solemnly reflect and commemorate Indigenous peoples and their hardships. We encourage you to do the same by declaring a statutory holiday for all Ontarians as a first important step towards reconciliation and justice.

Sincerely,

Carmen Santoro
President, OPFFA

cc;

Hon. Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria
President of the Treasury Board
Room 4320, 99 Wellesley St. W.
Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1W3

Hon. Monte McNaughton
Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development
14th Floor, 400 University Ave.
Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1T7

Hon. Sylvia Jones
Ministry of the Solicitor General
18th Floor, 25 Grosvenor Street
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