



The Corporation of the District of Saanich | Mayor's Office  
770 Vernon Avenue Victoria BC V8X 2W7 | T 250-475-5510 | F 250-475-5440 | www.saanich.ca

November 24, 2020

**VIA EMAIL: Marc.Miller@parl.gc.ca**

The Honourable Marc Miller  
Minister of Indigenous Services  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Miller:

**Re: Support for Recognizing September 30 as National Day of Truth and Reconciliation**

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On November 23, 2020, Saanich Council considered a Report to Council from Mayor Haynes dated November 6, 2020 and resolved:

1. *"That Council endorse the letter of support addressed to the Federal Minister of Indigenous Services, copying the British Columbia Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, to encourage making September 30 a statutory holiday marking a national day of remembrance of residential school Survivors of Canada; and*
2. *That Council provide the report to other local governments within British Columbia."*

On behalf of Saanich Council, I write to you to encourage royal assent of Bill C-5 for recognition of September 30 as a statutory national holiday for Truth and Reconciliation. This national holiday would acknowledge residential school survivors and recognize the harms that 150,000 children experienced in 139 residential schools across Canada. The last residential school in our country did not close its doors until 1996.

In the words of residential school survivor, Eddy Charlie, "This Bill will help increase the rights of Canada's Indigenous peoples, including rights to self, determination, lands and languages, and by having this Bill passed it will create an opportunity for all Canadians to celebrate equality."

We encourage the federal government to pass Bill C-5 to show that our nation is serious about recognizing the harms experienced by Indigenous peoples of Canada. The Bill emphasizes the rights of Indigenous peoples to maintain and strengthen their own institutions, cultures, and traditions, and to pursue their development in keeping with their own needs and aspirations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and hope that you will support Saanich Council's resolution. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Sincerely,

Fred Haynes  
Mayor

Atta.

c. Saanich Council  
BC Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation  
Cristina Caravaca, Senior Manager of Community Services, Parks, & Recreation  
Eddy Charlie