

**DATE:** June 23, 2021**FILE:** 5360-01**TO:** Chair and Directors  
Regional District Board**FROM:** Russell Dyson  
Chief Administrative OfficerSupported by Russell Dyson  
Chief Administrative Officer*R. Dyson***RE: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Statutory Holiday****Purpose**

To provide information to the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) Board regarding the Federal Government's adoption of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation statutory holiday on September 30, 2021.

**Recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer:**

For information only.

**Executive Summary**

On June 3, 2021, Bill C-5 received royal assent, which establishes an official federal statutory holiday on September 30. This Bill was introduced to address the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call for Action to establish a statutory holiday to honour Indigenous peoples and their families and communities, and ensuring that public commemoration of their history and the legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process. This statutory holiday will come into effect in 2021. At this time, Canada's new National Day for Truth and Reconciliation only applies to federal government employees and there is no indication that a provincial holiday will be established in British Columbia.

However, the CVRD is required by language in its Collective Agreements with the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 556 and United Steelworkers Local 1-1937 to grant employees of those bargaining units a day off with pay on September 30 in observance of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation recently proclaimed by the Federal Government. The CVRD will therefore be closing its administration, wastewater services and water services locations as well as the sports and aquatics centres. The CVRD regularly closes these facilities for other statutory holidays. In the case of the Comox Strathcona Waste Management (CSWM) services, the Campbell River and Comox Valley waste management centres will remain open in 2021 due to pre-existing hauling contracts with municipal partners. The CSWM Board resolved this matter on June 17, 2021 and will look to 2022 to close those facilities and recognize the statutory holiday.

In addition to collective agreement language, the CVRD has named Indigenous Relations as one of four strategic drivers, through which CVRD services are being delivered. To support Indigenous Relations as a driver, the CVRD adopted a framework in September 2019 to deliver core services with an Indigenous Relations lens and promote greater cultural awareness.

Some primary objectives of this framework include enhancing the knowledge and understanding of Indigenous culture and history, including the modern day legacy of colonial history; building capacity of all elected officials and staff to be engaged in collaborative work with Indigenous communities and people; and responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and the United Nation's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Prepared by:

*J. Warren*

---

James Warren  
Deputy Chief Administrative  
Officer

Concurrence:

*E. Jackson*

---

Ellen Jackson  
Senior Manager of Human  
Resources

Concurrence:

*C. Wile*

---

Christianne Wile  
Manager of External  
Relations