

FOR RELEASE
April 24, 2017

Government of Yukon tables National Aboriginal Day Act

Today, Minister of Community Services John Streicker tabled Bill 2, the *National Aboriginal Day Act* to amend the *Employments Standards Act* in the Yukon Legislative Assembly.

The Government of Yukon is encouraged by the results of the National Aboriginal Day survey conducted last summer, which asked Yukoners their thoughts on making this day a statutory holiday. Those survey results are now publicly available online.

The legislation will, if passed, create National Aboriginal Day as an annual statutory holiday in Yukon beginning on June 21, 2017.

Quotes

"National Aboriginal Day provides Yukoners and visitors alike with the opportunity to recognize and celebrate the contribution of Indigenous peoples to the fabric of Canada.

"We're building strong government-to-government relationships with Yukon First Nations, fostering reconciliation and creating a modern Yukon that is diverse and inclusive. Yukon is leading the way on many reconciliation initiatives. Celebrating First Nations culture together as a community is an important and significant step in this direction."

–Minister of Community Services John Streicker

Quick facts

- On December 9, 2015, an amendment to Motion 1039 to make National Aboriginal Day a statutory holiday in Yukon received a unanimous vote to seek input from the business community on how they might be impacted by such a holiday.
- From May 15 to July 16, 2016, the Yukon Bureau of Statistics sought input from First Nations governments and development corporations, local businesses and labour organizations, as well as the general public. A total of 1430 surveys were completed.
- Overall support for the holiday was registered in all categories of respondents:
 - 88 per cent of all respondents are in favour of the holiday;
 - 68.1 per cent of the business community and 54.3 per cent of employers responded in favour of the holiday;
 - 20.2 per cent of employers and members of the business community felt that their businesses would be positively affected by the holiday;
 - 26.9 per cent of employers and members of the business community said they would be negatively affected.
- The Northwest Territories is the only jurisdiction in Canada that currently celebrates National Aboriginal Day as a territorial statutory holiday.

Learn more: Aboriginal Day Survey Results Summary

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