



## BULLETS

**DATE:** September 14, 2016

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable John Rustad, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

**REGARDING:** Potential for public discussion of options for managing outstanding First Nation treaty loan debt and treaty negotiation support funding going forward.

### SUMMARY:

- Canada has presented an options paper to the Funding Working Group (Canada, British Columbia, the First Nations Summit and the BC Treaty Commission) on options to address First Nation treaty loan debt and treaty negotiation support funding going forward.
- s.12
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- Depending on the choice of negotiation support funding model moving forward, there could be impacts on the role of the BC Treaty Commission and fiscal impacts on British Columbia.
- s.12
- s.12,s.16
- The First Nations Summit will be briefing their Chief Negotiators on these options on September 15, 2016 and there is potential for this information to become public.

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## BRIEFING NOTE – UBCM 2016 CONVENTION

DATE: September 19, 2016

PREPARED FOR: Honourable John Rustad, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

MEETING: Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Convention Meeting with the District of Metchosin

TOPIC: Proposed resolution to declare National Aboriginal Day a statutory holiday.

### BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

In 1996 Governor General Roméo LeBlanc proclaimed June 21 National Aboriginal Day (NAD) to recognize and celebrate the heritage, diverse cultures and contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people. Recently, representatives from the District of Metchosin proposed a resolution to declare NAD a statutory national holiday. They argue that declaring NAD a statutory holiday would demonstrate progress towards government's goal of achieving reconciliation with Aboriginal people. More specifically; they argue that it would support the development of a new relationship between government and Aboriginal people that addresses past policies that have harmed Aboriginal individuals, families, and communities. It should be noted that The UBCM Resolutions Committee did not recommend that this resolution be endorsed.

Although not directly related to NAD, representatives from the District of Metchosin may highlight the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) recommendation that the federal government establish a statutory holiday to honour former residential school students and commemorate their legacy.

While the Province encourages all staff to celebrate NAD, declaring it a statutory holiday would require a review of related provincial and federal legislation and may require legislative amendments. Stakeholder consultation would also be critical as industry and small businesses would be impacted by an additional statutory holiday. Currently, the Northwest Territories is the only jurisdiction in Canada where National Aboriginal Day is a holiday.

### SPEAKING/RESPONSE POINTS:

- National Aboriginal Day is an important day to recognize and celebrate the heritage, diverse cultures and contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.
- My ministry celebrates NAD every year and encourages all staff to attend events within their communities on June 21st.
- As part of these celebrations, the MARR provides annual funding that allows for recognition of Aboriginal Public Service Employees across government.
- Establishing NAD as a statutory holiday across Canada would require significant collaboration with my provincial and federal government colleagues and consultation with stakeholders.
- I am open to exploring the idea of NAD as a statutory holiday and will discuss it with my provincial and federal colleagues.
- Thank you for interest in building reconciliation with Aboriginal people.

PREPARED BY:  
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