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Ontario

Petition to Proclaim June 21st as a Statutory Holiday in Ontario

TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO: Proclaim June 21st as a Statutory Holiday called Provincial Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Ontario

WHEREAS June 21 is recognized as the Summer Solstice and holds cultural significance for many Indigenous cultures; and

WHEREAS in 1982, the National Indian Brotherhood (Assembly of First Nations) called for the creation of a National Aboriginal Solidarity Day to be celebrated on June 21; and

WHEREAS In 1990, Québec recognized June 21 as a day to celebrate the achievements and cultures of Indigenous peoples;

WHEREAS In 1995, the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples recommended that a National First Peoples Day be designated;

WHEREAS In 1996, the Governor General of Canada proclaimed June 21 as National Aboriginal Day in response to these calls;

WHEREAS In 2001, Northwest Territories became the first province or territory to recognize June 21 as a statutory holiday; and

WHEREAS In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Recommendation #80 called on the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, to establish a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation as a statutory holiday.

Therefore, we, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows: To designate June 21 of each year as a legal statutory holiday to be kept and observed throughout Ontario. This day should serve to create and strengthen opportunities for Reconciliation and cultural exchange among Ontarians. The day should facilitate connections between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Ontarians in positive and meaningful ways. This day should solidify the original intent of National Aboriginal Day as a day for Ontarians to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

Name / *Nom* (printed / *en lettres moulées*)	Address / *Adresse* (printed / *en lettres moulées*)	Postal Code/ *Code Postal*	Signature

Please send signed petitions to our Queen's Park Office: Room160, Main Legislative Building. Queen's Park. Toronto, Ontario. M7A 1A5

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