

MPP Sol Mamakwa
Room 201
North Wing, Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A5
SMamakwa-QP@ndp.on.ca

AMAPCEO
ONTARIO'S PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES

1 Dundas Street West, Suite 2310
PO Box 72 Toronto ON M5G 1Z3
416.595.9000
Toll-free 1.888.262.7236

October 24, 2024

Dear MPP Sol Mamakwa and all Members of Provincial Parliament,

AMAPCEO, Ontario's Professional Employees, is proud to support the legislation sponsored by MPP Sol Mamakwa to designate the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation a statutory holiday for all provincially regulated workers.

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, also known as Orange Shirt Day, gives us the chance to honour the Survivors of Indian Residential Schools, taken from their parents as children, as well as those who never came home. We believe this day should bring people together. It would be spent in the company of family, reflecting on how this time together was denied to Indigenous families for so long. It would be spent gathering while learning and gaining awareness about the experiences of the thousands of children forced to attend Indian Residential Schools: Every child matters.

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation should not be treated 'business as usual' in Ontario. It cannot just be First Nations people reconciling Canada's history. Everyone shares in the responsibility to engage in reconciliation, which starts with knowing the truth. Non-Indigenous Ontarians should have the day off to dedicate time toward learning about and reflecting on Canada's colonial history of assimilationist policies.

AMAPCEO calls on the Ontario government to honour the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 80th Call to Action in the context of provincial jurisdiction. This means to designate September 30 a statutory holiday so that everyone living in Ontario can observe the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

While this is only one step along a journey toward reconciliation, we believe it to be a meaningful one, in honour of the Survivors of Indian Residential Schools and the children who never made it home.

Sincerely,



Dave Bulmer
President & CEO