



# TONY Van Bynen

Member of Parliament Newmarket-Aurora

## A Message from Tony

Today, June 21st, is National Indigenous Peoples Day. Celebrated on the summer solstice, this is a day to acknowledge and respect the unique heritage and diverse cultures of our three Aboriginal groups: the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. It is also a time to recognize the outstanding achievements and contributions they have made to this nation.

Let me also recognize that the communities of Aurora and Newmarket are situated on the traditional territories of the Wendat, the Haudenosaunee, and the Anishinaabe peoples, whose presence here continues. We honour and acknowledge this land and its people.

National Indigenous Peoples Day was formerly known as Aboriginal Peoples Day, but in 1996 it was renamed. As then Governor General Roméo LeBlanc noted: "On June 21st, this year and every year, Canada will honour the native peoples who first brought humanity to this great land. And may the first peoples of our past always be full and proud partners in our future."

Celebrations are wonderful, but recent tragic events have demonstrated that our nation still has much work to do in terms of recognizing and respecting Indigenous Peoples. Canadians are heartbroken by the discovery of the remains of Indigenous children at the Kamloops Residential School. In addressing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action 74-76, the Government is engaging with Indigenous communities across the nation on how best to support them in finding their lost children, including how they can access \$27M of funding from Budget 2019. And while apologies have been given, there are still some that need to be heard. We must stand together with our Indigenous people to get those apologies so that the healing can truly begin.

Recently, a bill creating a statutory holiday to commemorate the tragic legacy of residential schools has received royal assent. The passage of Bill C-5 means that going forward, September 30th will be an annual national day for truth and reconciliation.

I was proud to vote in favour of Bill C-15, which aligns Canada's laws with the United Nation's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and affirms their rights to self-determination, and to their language, culture and traditional lands. I was also heartened by the announcement that Indigenous Peoples can reclaim their traditional names on identity documents.

As part of National Indigenous History Month, my team and I have committed to broadening our understanding of their cultures and history through the lens of various Indigenous authors. For our #IndigenousReads book club, we've each picked a book, and later this month we'll be sharing what we've learned from these stories.

I highly encourage you to choose a book by an Indigenous author to read with friends, family or even a local book club.



Today is the 25th anniversary of National Indigenous Peoples Day, a day to commemorate the history and heritage of Indigenous Peoples in Canada and to recognize the strength of Indigenous communities.



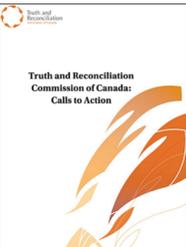
June is National Indigenous History Month, and this month is dedicated to the missing children, the families left behind and the survivors of residential schools.



Do you have a favourite Indigenous author, book or story? Please share with me!

Community recommendations:  
Seven Fallen Feathers by Tanya Talaga  
Loyal 'till Death by Blair Stonechild  
There, there by Tommy Orange

## Responding to TRC's Call to Action 17



Last week, the Honourable Marco Mendicino, Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, announced that Indigenous Peoples can now reclaim their traditional names on identity documents. This is an important step in reversing colonial policies and restoring dignity and pride in the identify of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people.

While the Truth and Reconciliation's Call to Action 17 only references passports, travel documents, citizenship certificates, and permanent residency cards are also included in this announcement.

More

information

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada has streamlined the reclamation process of an Indigenous name to be faster and more efficient for applicants. This service will be provided free of charge for five years.

## Appointing the First Commissioner and Directors of Indigenous Languages



The Honourable Stephen Guilbeault, Minister of Canadian Heritage, announced the first appointees to the new Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages. This is part of our commitment to protect, revitalize, and promote First Nations, Inuit and Métis languages.

More information

The Commissioner will be supported by the Directors in their work with Indigenous Peoples and as a champion for Indigenous languages. The Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages will facilitate better outcomes for these languages and ensure they can prosper and be spoken for years to come.

This responds to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action 15 "to appoint, in consultation with Aboriginal groups, an Aboriginal Languages Commissioner" to help promote languages and report on the adequacy of funding for initiatives.

## Expanding shelters network for Indigenous Peoples



The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, announced over \$85 million to build and support the operation of 12 emergency shelters across Canada. These shelters will be Indigenous-led, and will provide vital refuge and culturally appropriate critical supports and services to support survivors of family violence.

More

information

Support for these shelters is an element of the Federal Pathway to Address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ People, and is part of our plan to develop a comprehensive Violence Prevention Strategy that addresses the need for new shelters and transitional housing in Indigenous communities.

## Helping offset the impact of COVID-19 on own-source revenue



The Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Indigenous Services Canada, announced the launch of a call for applications for the Own-Source Revenue in Indigenous Communities Initiative. This will provide Indigenous communities with \$332.8 million to partially offset declines in own-source revenue that are essential to providing their members with core community programs and services, and increase their capacity to exercise self-determination.

More

information

To assist First Nations with completing and submitting their applications, Indigenous Services Canada has partnered with the First Nations Financial Management Board, the First Nations Tax Commission, and the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Economic Development Commission.

## Learning resources

While we celebrate the heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding achievements of Indigenous Peoples, we must also recognize our role in educating ourselves on the adversity faced and contributions made by First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

Below are a number of resources that are a good place to start:

- [Indigenous Canada course](#)
- [The Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#)
- [Reconciliation Through Indigenous Education](#)
- [Truth and Reconciliation Commission 94 Calls to Action](#)
- [Aboriginal Worldviews and Education course](#)
- Indigenous Reconciliation app from the Canada School of Public Service (search "Indigenous Reconciliation" in your app store)

## Mental Health Supports

We encourage all those who need some support at this time to reach out and know it is always there for you through the [Hope for Wellness Help Line](#) at 1-855-242-3310 (toll-free) or the online chat at [hopeforwellness.ca](#), open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

For immediate assistance to those who may need it, the National Indian Residential School Crisis Line is available 24 hours a day at 1-866-925-4419.



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