
STATEMENT

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Office of the Premier
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Premier's, minister's statements on National Indigenous Peoples Day

VICTORIA – Premier David Eby has issued the following statement celebrating National Indigenous Peoples Day:

“As people throughout British Columbia gather to celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day, we recognize the rich cultures, histories, languages and traditions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples.

“Today is also the summer solstice, which holds deep cultural and spiritual significance for many Indigenous Peoples and is marked with ceremonies, powwows and community events. These gatherings offer an opportunity for people to celebrate the diversity, strength and resilience of Indigenous communities.

“Indigenous Peoples have stewarded the lands and waters of this province since time immemorial and continue to make invaluable contributions in all aspects of life: from arts and culture to business, governance and economic development. We also recognize the leadership of Nations, governments, Elders, youth and knowledge keepers whose vision, teachings and stewardship continue to shape a stronger future for British Columbia.

“National Indigenous Peoples Day is also an opportunity to reflect on the ongoing impacts of colonialism and the work that remains to advance reconciliation. At a time when Indigenous communities face a rise in anti-Indigenous racism and residential school denialism, we all share a responsibility to stand against hate and uphold truth, respect and understanding.

“Our government remains committed to working in partnership with Indigenous Peoples to advance self-determination, support healthy and thriving communities, expand economic opportunities and build a stronger future for everyone in British Columbia. Together, we are continuing the work of reconciliation through partnerships and agreements that reflect the aspirations of Indigenous Peoples throughout the province.

“Throughout British Columbia, Indigenous languages, cultures and traditions are experiencing a remarkable resurgence, ensuring that future generations can carry forward their identities, teachings and connections to their lands and waters.

“As communities throughout the province come together in celebration, I encourage everyone to take part in local events, listen and learn from Indigenous voices, and recognize the enduring strength, contributions and cultures of Indigenous Peoples. May we continue to build a brighter future together, grounded in respect, partnership and shared understanding.”

Spencer Chandra Herbert, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, said:

“On this longest and brightest day of the year, National Indigenous Peoples Day shines a light on the cultures, contributions and resilience of Indigenous Peoples. This year, communities throughout the province will host events where families and friends can share food and enjoy parades, dancing, music, festivals and more.

“Learning about Indigenous Peoples’ histories, cultures and living traditions strengthens all of us. Today is an opportunity to celebrate the remarkable contributions Indigenous Peoples make every day and to recognize their leadership as partners in building a stronger future for British Columbia.”

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