

## **Bulletin #2021-47**

### **MUNICIPAL RELATIONS**

#### **Important Notice to all Elected Officials and Chief Administrative Officers**

### **Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Display of Flags**

#### Day for Truth and Reconciliation

The federal government recently passed legislation to make September 30 a federal statutory holiday called the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This holiday applies to people who work for the federal government or in federally regulated workplaces. Municipalities are not federally regulated workplaces, and this is therefore not a statutory holiday for municipal employees.

Manitoba's provincial government is observing the holiday, and non-essential provincial government offices, as well as schools, will be closed. Municipal councils may, through their own decisions, choose to observe this holiday in a similar fashion by recognizing the holiday and providing a day off for employees.

Additionally, some municipalities may have contracts with employees that recognize federal holidays.

#### Display of Flags

Some municipalities have recently inquired about the display of flags, particularly in relation to half-masting flags on September 30, the Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Municipalities, like other organizations, have discretion over the display of flags and symbols and are responsible for their own policies and decisions relating to the display of flags.

The federal government has half-masted Canadian flags on federal buildings and establishments across Canada since July 1, 2021 until further notice in recognition of the discovery of remains at residential schools. The provincial government will half-mast flags on September 30 at provincial offices and schools in recognition of the Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Resources relating to the display of flags, including information about half-masting the Canadian or Manitoban flag, are included below for further information.

Federal Etiquette for the Display of Canadian Flags

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/flag-canada-etiquette/about.html>

Federal Notices of Half-Masting the Canadian Flag

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/half-masting-notice.html>

Federal Policy on the Half-Masting of the Canadian Flag

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/flag-canada-masting-rules.html#a5>

Manitoba's Frequently Asked Questions on the Display of Flags

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/fpir/protocol/faq.html#flag>

Manitoba's News Release regarding the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

<https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=52405&posted=2021-09-03>

Should you require additional assistance please email [mrmaas@gov.mb.ca](mailto:mrmaas@gov.mb.ca) or phone 204-945-2572.

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