



## **Subject: Guidance for Acknowledging the Provincial Day of Remembrance and Mourning**

As many of you are aware, the Province of British Columbia has declared May 2, 2025 as a [Provincial Day of Remembrance and Mourning](#) in response to the recent tragic event.

We recognize that many of you have reached out to the Ministry and to Safer Schools Together, seeking clarity on the role of school districts and schools in observing this day. Just as each district and school responded to the initial tragedy in a way that reflected the unique needs of their school communities, the approach to this day may also vary.

Districts and schools are encouraged to acknowledge this day in ways that are sensitive, context-specific, and supportive of the emotional needs of students, staff, and families.

### **Key considerations to support your planning:**

- Be trauma-informed and carefully consider whether any planned actions may unintentionally cause more harm than healing. Not all students and staff will respond in the same way, and discretion is key.
- Consider your community's readiness and awareness, and tailor your approach based on its existing understanding of the event and the level of direct or indirect impact.
- If considering a specific way to acknowledge this day, be mindful of those individuals who may be immediately affected by this tragedy.
- Support students and staff by taking time to emotionally prepare those who have been particularly affected. Ensure trusted adults are available to check in before, during, and after any formal acknowledgements.
- Ensure that all students and staff feel respected and included, regardless of their cultural background.

### **If your schools are considering a moment of silence, we recommend:**

- This occurs only for middle and secondary schools. If the moment of silence is district or school-wide, it is important to consider the level of understanding and impact in elementary schools. Staff should take some time to explain the provincial day of remembrance and mourning, and what a moment of silence is at a level that is developmentally appropriate.
- Avoid delivering it over the intercom. A more meaningful and supportive approach is for individual teachers and staff to lead it within their own classrooms.
- Consider using the following script:  
*"Let us take a moment of silence to honour all those affected by the Lapu Lapu tragedy, and to hold space for everyone in our community who may be grieving or hurting."*

This is an opportunity to foster compassion and kindness. In Premier Eby's words, the Filipino community "has ever only been about love and family." Consider creating space for classroom conversations about these values and how we can embody them in our own communities. Simple activities like **Acts of Kindness** or class-wide kindness challenges can help students feel empowered and connected.