

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation / Orange Shirt Day

**Educational resources
May 2022**



**Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion
Centre canadien pour la diversité et l'inclusion**

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation / Orange Shirt Day

Orange Shirt Day has been observed on September 30th since 2013, when Phyllis Webstad shared her story at the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) residential school commemoration event in Williams Lake, BC. At six years old, Phyllis was excited to wear her new orange shirt, given to her by her grandmother, to her first day of residential school. However, her shirt was taken from her when she arrived, and she never saw it again. [Read more about Phyllis' story here.](#)

The information and resources below contain information that may be disturbing to some individuals, especially to residential school survivors. If you or someone you know needs support, please call the 24-Hour National Survivors Crisis Line at 1-866-925-4419.

In 2021, the federal government passed Bill C-5, recognizing September 30th as a federal holiday under a new name: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. What will you and your organization do to observe this important day which honours the lost children and survivors of residential schools, their families, and communities? This public commemoration will honour First Nations, Inuit, and Métis survivors, their families, and communities to ensure the legacy and history of residential schools moves the reconciliation process forward. The discovery of more than 1,300 gravesites has awakened Canada. Now is the time to put reconciliation into action with your employees, your community, and your organization.

Reconciliation + Action = ReconciliACTION.

Background

- Orange Shirt Society
- National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation / Centre national pour la vérité et la réconciliation
- The Story of Orange Shirt Day / Histoire de la journée du chandail orange
- Journée nationale de la vérité et de la réconciliation
- Le 30 septembre sera une journée de commémoration, vérité et réconciliation en C.-B.
- Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre
- Federal Indian Day School Class Action
- The creation of this federal statutory holiday was achieved through legislative amendments made by Parliament. On June 3, 2021, Bill C-5, An Act to amend the Bills of Exchange Act, the Interpretation Act, and the Canada Labour Code (National Day for Truth and Reconciliation) received Royal Assent. Read about the bill at [LEGISinfo](#), provided by the Library of Parliament. You can also read the [full text of the bill](#).



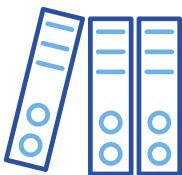
WAYS TO TAKE ACTION

- Wear an orange t-shirt, pin, or other item purchased from a local Indigenous business or from the [Orange Shirt Day online store](#)
- Put effort towards the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action/Appels à l'action**, as they apply to your organization, industry, or sector:
 - Application + Action: TRC Reading Guide for Non-Indigenous Organizations (Manitoba Harm Reduction Network)
 - TRC Corporate Call to Action #92 (Indigenous Works)
 - Beyond 94 – Truth and Reconciliation in Canada (CBC News)
 - Walking the talk: A practical guide to reconciliation for CUPE locals (Canadian Union of Public Employees) / Joindre le geste à la parole : un guide pratique sur la réconciliation à l'intention des sections locales du SCFP (Syndicat canadien de la fonction publique)
 - Business Reconciliation in Canada Guidebook (Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business) / Guide de la réconciliation d'affaires au Canada (Conseil canadien pour l'entreprise Autochtone)
- Learn the history of the land you live on, or the closest residential schools
- Attend a local event
- Read the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission \(TRC\) report](#). A purposeful review of the report and what it means for your organization is an important exercise which can be done for yourself as a manager or leader, or for your organization
- Conduct land acknowledgements at your events, meetings, and forums. Use them in your email signature and in other communications activities. Look at your current statement(s) and consider how to expand them. Do they convey respect, sincerity, and meaningful commentary on land acknowledgement and reconciliation?
- Start a ReconciliACTION Sharing Circle in your organization to discuss current affairs and expand your knowledge and perspectives with others reflecting/learning from reading books & watching films on Indigenous people and their history
- Actively seek out and support Indigenous businesses and add them to your supplier list

WAYS TO TAKE ACTION

- Visit and engage with an Indigenous community, attend a pow-wow or community event. Volunteer and be a mentor.
- Engage and talk with Indigenous Youth and Elders in your region. Bring voices together.
- Donate to [Indigenous charities](#)
 - Support Indigenous Works' Kocihta Charity – Your donation will help Kocihta achieve its mandate to "Help Indigenous Youth discover their career and human resource potential including youth with disabilities" (Charity #846394922)
- Request a [KAIROS Blanket Exercise](#) for your organization
- Join or host a [Circle for Reconciliation](#)
- Book a [Reconciliation Canada](#) workshop, speaker, or lunch and learn event for your team or [host a conversation](#)
- Read, watch, and listen to the resources in this guide, and share them with your colleagues, friends, and family
- Send your ReconciliACTIONs to contactus@indigenousworks.ca. We will compile a list of ways that people and organizations are observing this important day.

Other resources



ARTICLES, REPORTS, AND TOOLS

-
- [Where are the Children? Healing the legacy of the residential schools](#) (Aboriginal Healing Foundation and Legacy of Hope Foundation) / [Where are the Children? Guérir des impacts des pensionnats indiens](#) (Fondation autochtone de guérison et Fondation autochtone de l'espoir)
 - [A history of residential schools in Canada](#) (CBC News)
 - [Les pensionnats autochtones en 7 questions](#) (Radio-Canada)

ARTICLES, REPORTS, AND TOOLS

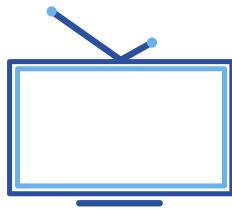
- [Residential Schools in Canada \(Canadian Encyclopedia\) / Pensionnats indiens au Canada \(L'Encyclopédie Canadienne\)](#)
- [Indigenous history in Canada \(Government of Canada\) / Histoire autochtone au Canada \(Gouvernement du Canada\)](#)
- [Building Inclusion for Indigenous Peoples in Canadian Workplaces / Favoriser l'inclusion des peuples autochtones dans les milieux de travail canadiens \(Catalyst\)](#)
- [Inclusive Futures: Indigenous Engagement in Canada's Workforce / Avenir inclusifs participation des Autochtones au marché du travail au Canada \(Action Canada\)](#)



BOOKS

CCDI encourages you to check with your local bookstore or municipal library for availability of these publications.

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- [21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act: Helping Canadians Make Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples a Reality \(Bob Joseph\)](#)
 - [A Knock on the Door: The Essential History of Residential Schools from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada \(Phil Fontaine and Aimée Craft\)](#)
 - [Five Little Indians \(Michelle Good\)](#)
 - [Genocidal Love: a Life After Residential School \(Bevann Fox\)](#)
 - [In this Together: Fifteen Stories of Truth & Reconciliation \(Danielle Metcalfe-Chenail\)](#)
 - [Indigenous Relations: Insights, Tips & Suggestions to Make Reconciliation a Reality \(Bob Joseph\)](#)
 - [Let the People Speak: Oppression in a Time of Reconciliation \(Sheilla Jones\)](#)
 - [Peace and Good Order \(Harold R. Johnson\)](#)
 - [Reconciliation in Practice: A Cross-Cultural Perspective \(Ranjan Datta\)](#)
 - [The Reconciliation Manifesto: Recovering the Land, Rebuilding the Economy \(Arthur Manuel and Grand Chief Ronald Derrickson\)](#)



FILM AND TELEVISION

Please note: There may be a cost related to watching this content and CCDI is not responsible for those costs.

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- Films for Orange Shirt Day (Reel Canada)
 - Films de production autochtone (Reel Canada)
 - Ted Talk: Canada's State of Emergency by Pamela Palmater (free on YouTube)
 - L'héritage des pensionnats indiens au Québec (free on YouTube)
 - nîpawistamâsowin: We Will Stand Up (National Film Board of Canada) / nîpawistamâsowin: Nous nous lèverons (Office national du film du Canada)
 - Rhymes for Young Ghouls (CBC Gem)
 - Stolen Children | Residential School survivors speak out (YouTube)
 - Stories are in Our Bones (National Film Board of Canada) / Des histoires ancrées en nous (Office national du film du Canada)
 - The Body Remembers When the World Broke Open (CBC Gem)
 - The Lesser Blessed (CBC Gem)
 - The Road Forward (National Film Board of Canada) / Droit devant (Office national du film du Canada)
 - Uvanga (CBC Gem)



PODCASTS

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- All My Relations
 - Coffee with My Ma
 - Métis in Space
 - Missing and Murdered
 - Native Opinion
 - New Fire with Lisa Charleyboy
 - RAVEN (De)Briefs
 - Red Man Laughing
 - Residential Schools Podcast Series by Historica Canada
 - Secret Life of Canada
 - Série de baladodiffusion Pensionnats indiens by Historica Canada
 - The Henceforward
 - The Red Nation
 - This Land
 - Unreserved



INSTAGRAM ACCOUNTS

CCDI is not responsible for the content posted by any of these accounts.

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24-Hour National Survivors Crisis Line: 1-866-925-4419

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