



National Day for Truth and Reconciliation / Orange Shirt Day

**Educational resources
August 2025**



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

ccdi.ca

Educational resources on 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](#).

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. Now is the time to put reconciliation into action with your employees, your community, and your organization.

Reconciliation + Action = ReconciliACTION



[Orange Shirt Society](#)

History and background

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](#).

Bilingual

- [About the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation / Journée nationale pour la vérité et la réconciliation](#), The Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund
- [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation / Centre national pour la vérité et la réconciliation](#)
- [Orange Shirt Day / La Journée du chandail orange](#), The Canadian Encyclopedia
- [The Story of Orange Shirt Day / Histoire de la journée du chandail orange \(PDF\)](#), Orange Shirt Society
- [Understanding the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation / Comprendre la Journée nationale de la vérité et de la réconciliation](#), Government of Canada

English only

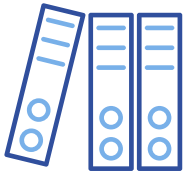
- [Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre](#)
- [Indigenous Watchdog](#)
- [Orange Shirt Society](#)
- [Why the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation isn't just another stat holiday](#), CBC News

Ways to take action

- **Wear an orange t-shirt**, pin, or other item purchased from a local Indigenous business or from official [Orange Shirt Society retailers](#).
- Put effort towards the Truth and Reconciliation Commission [Calls to Action \(PDF\)](#) as they apply to your organization, industry, or sector. The resources below offer some support in these efforts.
 - [Application + Action: TRC Reading Guide for Non-Indigenous Organizations \(PDF\)](#), Manitoba Harm Reduction Network
 - [Call to Action #92](#), TRCtalk
 - [Call to Action #92](#), Indigenous Watchdog
 - [Beyond 94 – Truth and Reconciliation in Canada](#), CBC News
 - [Walking the talk: A practical guide to reconciliation for CUPE locals / Joindre le geste à la parole : un guide pratique sur la réconciliation à l'intention des sections locales du SCFP](#), Canadian Union of Public Employees
 - [Business Reconciliation in Canada Guidebook \(PDF\) / Guide de la réconciliation d'affaires au Canada \(PDF\)](#), Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business
- **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.
- **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.

- **Explore Indigenous media** to engage with Indigenous voices. For September 30th, check out APTN's [National Day for Truth and Reconciliation coverage and features](#), or [A Day to Listen](#) from The Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund. Throughout the year, [APTN News](#), [Nation Talk](#), and [Windspeaker](#) are great sources of Indigenous perspectives.
- **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 \(PDF\)](#).
- **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.

Additional resources to consider



ARTICLES, REPORTS, AND TOOLS

Bilingual

- [Empowering the Spirit: Educational Resource to Support Reconciliation / Valoriser l'esprit : Ressources pédagogiques pour appuyer la réconciliation](#), Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia
- [Residential School History / Histoire des pensionnats autochtones](#), National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation
- [Residential Schools in Canada / Pensionnats indiens au Canada](#), The Canadian Encyclopedia
- [Stolen Lives: The Indigenous Peoples of Canada and the Indian Residential Schools / Vies volées: Les Peuples Autochtones au Canada et le régime des pensionnats](#), Facing History & Ourselves
- [Take ReconciliACTION / Prenez la Réconciliation](#), The Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund
- [Where are the Children? Healing the legacy of the residential schools / Where are the Children? Guérir des impacts des pensionnats indiens](#), Aboriginal Healing Foundation

French only

- [La blessure des pensionnats autochtones](#), Radio-Canada
- [Les pensionnats autochtones en 7 questions](#), Radio-Canada
- [Traumatisme intergénérationnel : des pensionnats indiens](#), Historica Canada



BOOKS

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

Bilingual

- A Short History of Indians in Canada / Une brève histoire des Indiens au Canada (Thomas King)
- Five Little Indians / Cinq petits Indiens (Michelle Good)
- Kuei, My Friend: A Conversation on Race and Reconciliation / Kuei, je te salue : conversation sur le racisme (Deni Ellis Béchard, Natasha Kanapé Fontaine)

English only

- A Knock on the Door: The Essential History of Residential Schools from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (Phil Fontaine and Aimée Craft)
- Distorted Descent: White Claims to Indigenous Identity (Darryl Leroux)
- Flawed Precedent: The St. Catherine's Case and Aboriginal Title (Kent McNeil)
- 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)
- No Surrender: The Land Remains Indigenous (Sheldon Krasowski)
- Reconciliation in Practice: A Cross-Cultural Perspective (Ranjan Datta)

French only

- Amun (collectif sous la direction de Michel Jean)
- C'est le Québec qui est né dans mon pays (Emanuelle Dufour)
- Décoloniser le Canada (Arthur Manuel)
- Je suis une maudite sauvagesse - Eukuan nin matshi-manitu innushkueu (An Antane Kapesh)
- Le vent en parle encore (Michel Jean)
- Matisiwin (Marie Christine Bernard)
- Nous sommes des histoires (anthologie)
- Shuni (Naomi Fontaine)



FILM AND TELEVISION

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

Bilingual

- [nîpawistamâsowin: We Will Stand Up](#) / [nîpawistamâsowin: Nous nous lèverons](#) (National Film Board of Canada)
- [Rhymes for Young Ghouls](#) / [Rimes pour revenants](#) (Netflix, [Amazon Prime Video](#))
- [Stories are in Our Bones](#) / [Des histoires ancrées en nous](#) (National Film Board of Canada)
- [The Road Forward](#) / [Droit devant](#) (National Film Board of Canada)

English only

- [Canada's State of Emergency](#) (YouTube)
- [Films for Orange Shirt Day](#) (Reel Canada)
- [Stolen Children | Residential School survivors speak out](#) (YouTube)
- [The Body Remembers When the World Broke Open](#) (CBC Gem)
- [The Lesser Blessed](#) (YouTube)
- [Uvanga](#) (CBC Gem)

French only

- [Blocus 138 — Innu Resistance](#) (YouTube)
- [Fighter \(La Battante\)](#) (Vimeo)
- [Films de production autochtone](#) (Reel Canada)
- [Innu Nikamu : chanter la résistance](#) (CinÉcole)
- [L'héritage des pensionnats indiens au Québec](#) (free on YouTube)



PODCASTS

- [All My Relations](#)
- [Missing & Murdered: Finding Cleo](#)
- [Our Native Land](#)
- [RAVEN \(De\)Briefs](#)
- [Telling Our Twisted Histories](#)
- [The Henceforward](#)
- [The Red Nation](#)
- [This Land](#)
- [Toasted Sister](#)
- [Unreserved](#)

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

Last updated: August 2025