

You are here:

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2. [Canadian Heritage](#)



## Canada's National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/national-day-truth-reconciliation.html>

September 30, 2021 marks the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

The day honours the lost children and Survivors of residential schools, their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process.

The creation of this federal statutory holiday was 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.

### Wear orange

Both the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and [Orange Shirt Day](#) take place on September 30.

Orange Shirt Day is an Indigenous-led grassroots commemorative day that honours the children who survived residential schools and remembers those who did not. This day relates to the experience of Phyllis Webstad, a Northern Secwepemc (Shuswap) from the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation, on her first day of school, where she arrived dressed in a new orange shirt, which was taken from her. It is now a symbol of the stripping away of culture, freedom and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children over generations.



On September 30, we encourage all Canadians to wear orange to raise awareness of the very tragic legacy of residential schools, and to honour the thousands of Survivors.

### Commemorating National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

#### Illuminating Parliament Hill

To commemorate the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and to honour the Survivors, their families and communities, buildings across Canada will be illuminated in orange September 29 and/or September 30, from 7:00 pm to sunrise the next morning. This will include federal buildings such as the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill.

#### [Truth and Reconciliation Week](#)

This 5-day, bilingual educational event will include programming designed for students in grades 5 through 12 along with their teachers and feature Indigenous Elders, youth and Survivors. The event will

be pre-recorded and webcasted, allowing for schools and classrooms participation from across the country and the involvement of Indigenous and non-Indigenous students.

### **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Broadcast**

A 1-hour bilingual primetime show in partnership with, and broadcast on, CBC/Radio-Canada and APTN will be devoted to the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Programming will include presentations on the importance of this day as well as cultural and artistic performances in support of healing and giving voices to Indigenous peoples.

### **APTN Sunrise Ceremony**

APTN will present pre-taped Sunrise ceremony featuring drummers, singers, Elders and various Indigenous traditions.

### **Orange shirt Day – 2021 events**

List of public events held across Canada to commemorate Orange Shirt Day 2021.

#### **Mental health supports available**

Former residential school students can call [1-866-925-4419](tel:1-866-925-4419) for emotional crisis referral services and information on other health supports from the Government of Canada.

Indigenous peoples across Canada can also go to The Hope for Wellness Help Line 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for counselling and crisis intervention.

Call the toll-free Help Line at [1-855-242-3310](tel:1-855-242-3310) or connect to the [online chat](#).

#### **Truth and Reconciliation Commission and its calls to action**

There were 140 federally run Indian Residential Schools which operated in Canada between 1831 and 1998. The last school closed only 23 years ago. Survivors advocated for recognition and reparations and demanded accountability for the lasting legacy of harms caused. These efforts culminated in:

- the [Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement](#)
- [apologies by the government](#)
- the establishment of the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#)
- the creation of the [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission ran from 2008 to 2015 and provided those directly or indirectly affected by the legacy of the Indian Residential Schools policy with an opportunity to share their stories and experiences. The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation has become the permanent archive for the statements, documents and other materials the Commission gathered, and its [library and collections](#) are the foundation for ongoing learning and research.

The Commission [released its final report](#) detailing 94 calls to action. The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is a direct response to Call to Action 80, which called for a federal statutory day of commemoration.

#### **To learn more**

This National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, explore the rich and diverse cultures, voices, experiences and stories of the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. Whether you want to read, listen, watch, or try, [start your learning journey](#) today.

## **More to explore**

### **Indigenous peoples and cultures**

Learn about the unique history, languages, cultural practices, and spiritual beliefs of Indigenous peoples in Canada.

### **Indigenous languages**

Learn more about Indigenous languages and the tools and programs in place to help support the reclamation, revitalization, maintaining and strengthening of Indigenous languages in Canada.

### **Funding - Culture, history and sport**

Explore a range of funding opportunities related to culture, history and sport.

### **Indigenous history in Canada**

Learn more about the contributions of Indigenous peoples from the Royal Proclamation of 1763 through the world wars to today.

### **National Student Memorial Register**

List of the children who died or went missing from their residential school. Search by name or school.

### **Residential school missing children - Community support funding**

Funding to support families, Survivors and communities to locate and memorialize children of residential schools across Canada.

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