

# September 30

## Orange Shirt Day: Every Child Matters

Orange Shirt Day has been observed since 2013, and is a day to encourage learning the tragic history of residential schools and to affirm that every child matters. That legacy of harm stands out sharply with the recent discovery of unmarked and undocumented graves located at residential schools across Canada.

For many, these events have been a shocking discovery but for others a validation of traumatic experiences shared and truths long known.



Cree students at All Saints Indian Residential School, Lac La Ronge, March 1945

**The Original Orange Shirt:** In 1973, six-year-old Phyllis (Jack) Webstad was excited for her first day at St. Joseph's Mission Residential School in B.C. She was also excited to be wearing the shiny, new, orange shirt her grandmother had given her especially for the day. That all changed when she arrived at the mission. In Phyllis' own words, "When I got to the mission, they stripped me, and took away my clothes, including the orange shirt! I never wore it again. I didn't understand why they wouldn't give it back to me, it was mine! The color orange has always reminded me of that and how my feelings didn't matter, how no one cared and how I felt like I was worth nothing. All of us little children were crying and no one cared."  
<https://www.orangeshirtday.org/phyllis-story.html>

**Find out when the last Residential School closed in your part of the province.**

<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/residential-schools-in-canada-interactive-map>

### Learn More About the Realities and Impacts of Residential Schools

- Sign up for one of SHA's Cultural Conversation virtual presentations ([Sept 29 Cultural Conversations Willie Ermine](#)) and go to MyConnections to view past recordings.
- Read Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future, summary of the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada which can be found [here](#).
- Check out [#BeAConnectR.org](#).
- Check out the attached list of resources, events and organizations.

We are all treaty people

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## National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

### What is it All About and How You Can Help

In December 2015, the TRC released its entire 6-volume final report. All Canadians are encouraged to learn more about the history and ongoing impacts of Residential Schools by reading the report & summary available at the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation website.

To review the TRC health-related recommendations (Calls 18 - 24, 55 ) and the Saskatchewan Health Authority's signed commitment to the TRC please see attached documents.

### Show Your Commitment....

- My commitment to the TRC is...
- Orange Shirt Day has shown/taught me that...
- We are all treaty people means...
- I plan to increase my knowledge by...
- I will provide culturally responsive care in my daily practice by...

### Together we can build a safer, healthier community for everyone!

- Create a TRC space on your visibility wall to demonstrate your TRC commitment—both as individuals & as a team. Post this resource on it. Be creative, go virtual if you can!
- Think about the actions you plan to take towards reconciliation. Write them out on orange post-it notes or small paper heart or t-shirt shaped images and post on your visibility wall.
- Take a picture and share at [FNMR@saskhealthauthority.ca](mailto:FNMR@saskhealthauthority.ca) to enter a draw for an 'Every Child Matters' flag.
- Review the visibility wall and your TRC actions regularly.

*We are all treaty people*