

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day) September 30, 2024

Orange Shirt Day takes place on September 30th (or a Sunday close to that date in church). We wear orange to recognize and raise awareness about the history and legacy of the residential school system in Canada.

Why do we wear orange?

Phyllis Jack Webstad from the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation went to St. Joseph Mission Residential School. She shared a story of how her grandmother gave her an orange shirt which was stripped from her when she entered the residential school. The color orange now symbolizes how indigenous children were stripped of their identity – and for those children who never made it home.



Each year, students on Turtle Island submit their designs to be printed on the orange shirts. This year, grade eleven student Aliyah Bautista's design was chosen.

Reconciliation starts with us. In order to heal and grow as a community, we must walk this path. The CSRC Right Relations Team encourages you to wear orange as an act of solidarity and commitment to restoring right relations with Indigenous peoples. In addition to wearing orange, we invite you to take some time to reflect and find ways to continue your reconciliation journey.

- The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation has some good resources, including a daily Lunch and Learn webinar to UN-learn the myths of colonial history in Canada from September 23 – 27th <https://trw-svr.nctr.ca/lunch-and-learns/>
- Moderator Carmen Lansdowne shares this message about the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Please watch and share! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TRhRK1Ai2N4>

For information on how or where to purchase your shirt, see below. Keep in mind that retailers will run out of stock early! Order or pick yours up as soon as possible!

- 1) You can find out where to order this year's shirt directly from the Orange Shirt Society. Each year, the Orange Shirt Society selects a new design to represent Orange Shirt Day. <https://orangeshirtday.org/merchandise/>
- 2) Purchase from a local or online retailer. Before purchasing a shirt from a store, find out if a generous portion of the proceeds are going towards supporting an appropriate charity such as: the Orange Shirt Day Society, Indian Residential School Survivors Society, or similar charities supporting Indigenous youth and/or survivors. Whenever possible, try to choose Indigenous owned businesses – there are usually local shops where you can purchase a shirt without having to order online.

Submitted by the CSRC Right Relations Resource Team