

# Orange Shirt Day

September 30<sup>th</sup>

A day to listen, learn, act and celebrate First Nations' culture

Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake in the spring of 2013. It grew out of Phyllis's account of losing her pretty new orange shirt on her first day of school at the Mission, and it has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually. The date was chosen because children are back in school and teachers have time to plan, and to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the year.

Orange Shirt Day is also an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and community agencies to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.

## Resources and ideas

### Every Child Matters: Reconciliation Through Education

A virtual national gathering hosted by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation **designed for students in grade 5 through 12**. This virtual event provides an opportunity to learn first hand from Residential School Survivors, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, artists and leaders from nations and cultures across the country. **Educators can select the events they wish to livestream for their students and download free educational resources.**

Join thousands of Canadian youth on **September 30 from 8am to 10am PST**.

[Registration now open](#)



### Learn more about Orange Shirt Day

- Find resources, ideas and purchase Orange Shirt Day from [orangeshirtday.org](http://orangeshirtday.org)
- Read a CBC article on [How Orange Shirt Day is sparking healing in this Mohawk community.](#)
- Visit the [Orange Shirt Day Facebook page](#) and add your event photos
- Learn more about residential schools
  - [Legacy of Hope Foundation](#)
  - [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
  - [Where are the Children](#)

### Plan Orange Shirt Day activities with your students

- Make Phyllis's story a part of your day. Watch the [video of Phyllis's story](#): it is worth the three minutes!
- Have discussion around the message "Every Child Matters."
- Do simple, thoughtful activities, such as having children trace their hand, then write in the hand something they can do to help others feel like they matter.
- Read books with residential school themes. Many are available at the [Learning Resources Centre](#).
- Watch a movie such as "We Were Children" available at [National Film Board](#)

That's it, that's all you have to do! Keep it simple and it will be effective. You may very well have other ideas that you would like to try. Try them. You may want to use the day as a kick off to other activities during the year like ERASE, Me to We, Positive Action, etc. Go ahead – do that!