

Orange Shirt Day

Resources

September 30 of each year is dedicated to Orange Shirt Day. This day is used to honour the children who went to residential schools, create awareness of residential schools, and create dialogue about the lasting impact of the legacy of residential schools.

There are many resources in many forms including films, books and podcasts which provide insight into the residential school experience, the intergenerational trauma that continues into the present day, and our responsibilities as Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

These resources are not an exhaustive list, rather a starting point.



#ORANGESHIRTDAY

LISTEN

A list of films, videos, books, websites to learn more about the legacy of residential schools

LEARN

Resources and activities that promote learning about residential schools and the TRC

ACT

Meaningful actions you can do to support Indigenous peoples and the TRC Calls to Action

LISTEN

A list of films, videos, books, websites to learn more about the legacy of residential schools

Websites:

Orange Shirt Society - <https://www.orangeshirtday.org/>

National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation - <https://nctr.ca/>

The Woodland Cultural Centre - <https://woodlandculturalcentre.ca/>

Videos and Films:

Phyllis' Story - Orange Shirt Day

National Film Board Shorts - Residential Schools

Legacy of Hope: Survivor Stories

Residential Schools Canada: a timeline

Indian Horse (2017): Movie - Available on Netflix

We Were Children (2012) - Available on Amazon Prime

Murray Sinclair, Former Senator and former chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission - Response to the 215 unmarked graves

Readings/Books:

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission Final Report - Calls to Action

Pathways of Reconciliation (2020) Edited by Aimee Craft and Paulette Regan

Unsettling the Settler Within (2010) by Paulette Regan

A National Crime (2017) by John S. Milloy

Podcasts:

Voices from the Land: Indigenous Peoples Talk Language Revitalization

Legacy of Hope: Roots and Hoots

Seven Truths by Tanya Talaga - Available on Audible

LEARN

Resources and activities that promote learning about residential schools and the TRC

University of Toronto Resources:

Wecheechetowin: Answering the Call
UTM Indigenous Centre
Indigenous Gateway

External Resources:

Gaudry, A., & Lorenz, D. (2018). Indigenization as inclusion, reconciliation, and decolonization: navigating the different visions for indigenizing the Canadian Academy. *AlterNative: An International Journal of Indigenous Peoples*, 14(3), 218–227.

Sample Classroom Exercises:

Listen, Learn & Reflect:

Listen to survivor stories

Write a reflection:

- Who was the story about?
- Where were they from?
- How did going to residential schools impact them?
- How did hearing their story impact you?
- What can you do going forward?

Discussion Post:

Have students choose one of the 94 Calls to Action from the TRC

Discuss:

- Why did you choose this call to action? Why is it important?
- What can you do to support this call to action?
- Can you connect this call to course/field of study?

Write your MP:

Have students draft a letter to their MP calling on specific actions that the government can do to respond to the TRC

ACT

Meaningful actions you can do to support Indigenous peoples and the TRC Calls to Action

Donate

Donate to Indigenous organizations, foundations and communities directly supporting Indigenous peoples, for example:

Orange Shirt Society

Indian Residential School Survivors Society

Legacy of Hope Foundation

Woodland Cultural Centre - Save the Evidence

Downie & Wenjack Fund

Make a commitment

Write it down: I (insert your name) commit to continued learning and supporting the Calls to Action in the TRC by: (insert at least one short- and long-term actions you can take).

Amplify Indigenous Voices

Indigenous peoples have been doing great work in communities for decades, listen to them and share their stories.

Write Elected Officials

Elected officials, such as Members of Parliament (MPs) are elected to bring forth the public's opinion and views to parliament. To find out who your MP is follow this link and use your postal code <https://www.ourcommons.ca/members/en>