

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – September 30, 2026



Each year, September 30 marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. It is a day to honour and remember the children taken from their families, those who never returned home, and the individuals, families and communities still living with the lasting impacts and trauma caused by the residential school system in Canada. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process.

Wear Orange

Both the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day take place on September 30th.

Orange Shirt Day is a commemorative day led by Indigenous communities to raise awareness about the intergenerational impacts of residential schools on children, families and communities. It honours Indigenous children who were lost in the residential school system. The orange shirt symbolizes the loss of culture, freedom and self-esteem that many Indigenous children experienced. This day reminds us that **“Every Child Matters”**.

On September 30th all Canadians are encouraged to wear orange to honour the thousands of Survivors of residential schools.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission and its calls to action

There were 140 federally run residential schools in Canada that operated between 1867 and 1996. Survivors advocated for recognition and reparations and demanded accountability for the intergenerational impacts of harm caused. Their 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 residential schools’ policy with an opportunity to share their stories and experiences. 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.



Reconciliation

The Government of Canada is working to advance reconciliation and renew nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous peoples, based on rights, respect, cooperation and partnership.

Prayer

This prayer for Truth and Reconciliation is intended to promote healing, understanding, and a commitment to walking together toward a shared, equitable future.

Gracious and loving Creator, we come before you acknowledging the truths of our shared history. We mourn the pain and suffering inflicted upon Indigenous peoples, and we hold those who still bear the deep scars of residential schools with compassion and love.

We pray for healing for all who have experienced trauma, loss, and injustice. Give us the courage to listen deeply even when the truth is difficult to hear and grant us the wisdom to build a future based on mutual respect and understanding.

Replace our divisions with unity and guide our steps as we walk together along the path of truth and reconciliation. May we be instruments of peace, justice, and wholeness in our communities.

Amen.

Video

<https://youtu.be/h7VZenUWP3c?si=EWdhDHAIGQoR1oC7>

(Gratitude to the Government of Canada's website for the above ideas)

