SEPTEMBER 30TH

ORANGE SHIRT DAY & NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH & RECONCILIATION

Join thousands across Canada on September 30th, by wearing an orange shirt in an annual observance to commemorate the Indigenous children who were taken from their families and forced to attend Residential Schools.

SEPTEMBER 30TH IS A DAY TO:

- **Honour Survivors of the residential school system, their families, and remember those children who didn't make it home.**
- **Raise Awareness of the lasting impacts of the schools and promote the concept that "Every Child Matters."**
- **Support Reconciliation and commit to learning the truth about Canada's history.**

The orange shirt is inspired by the story of residential school Survivor Phyllis Webstad, whose new orange shirt was taken from her on her first day at residential school in 1973.

"I went to the Mission for one year. I had just turned 6 years old. We never had very much money, but somehow my granny managed to buy me a new outfit to go to the Mission School in. I remember going to Robinson's store and picking out a shiny orange shirt. It had string laced up in front, and was so bright and exciting - just like I felt to be going to school! Of course, 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! Since then the colour 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. I finally get it, that the feeling of worthlessness and insignificance, ingrained in me from my first day at the Mission, affected the way I lived my life for many years." -Phyllis (Jack) Webstad

The orange shirt symbolizes the stripping away of dignity and culture from all Indigenous children who were forced to attend. The date, September 30th, was chosen as it reflects the time of year children were historically taken from their homes and sent to the Residential schools. This observance serves as an important step toward Truth & Reconciliation and setting a commitment to a better future for all children, because ***Every Child Matters!***

Check out our website - https://orangeshirtday.org - for more resources, videos & activities

ERY CHILD MATTERS–EVERY CHILD MATTERS–EVERY CHILD MATTERS–EVERY CHILD MATTERS–EVERY