



## ORANGE SHIRT DAY

Saturday, September 30, 2017

A day to listen, learn, and celebrate Aboriginal culture

### Why Orange Shirts?

Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake, BC, Canada, in May 2013. It grew out of [Phyllis' story](#) of having her shiny new orange shirt taken away 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. Hear Phyllis' story [here](#) (3 minute video).

The date was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year. It also gives teachers time to plan events that will include children, as we want to ensure that we are passing the story and learning on to the next generations.

[Orange Shirt Day](#) is also an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.

### Aboriginal Peoples and Culture

The Canadian constitution recognizes three distinct groups of Aboriginal peoples, [First Nation](#), [Métis](#), and [Inuit](#) with unique histories, languages, cultural practices, and spiritual beliefs. More than 1.4 million people in Canada identify themselves as an Aboriginal person. Learn about the Aboriginal arts, history and heritage that are woven into the fabric of our country... [more](#)

See what people are doing to celebrate Orange Shirt Day:

<https://www.facebook.com/orangeshirtdayeverychildmatters>

Let's listen, learn, and celebrate Aboriginal culture together on **Orange Shirt Day**  
**Share your photos**

Learn more: [Orange Shirt Day](#) • [Reconciliation of Canada](#) • [Gord Downey's Article Canadian History and the Indian Residential School System Video](#)