

Orange Shirt Day - AOB 2026



September 30th

**NATIONAL DAY FOR
TRUTH AND
RECONCILIATION**

**EVERY
CHILD
MATTERS**



Orange Shirt Day: Explained

-In Canada, September 30 is Orange Shirt day, as well as **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation** (*New national holiday since 2021*)

-Starting in 2013, this day was the idea of Indigenous groups in BC that wanted to help give Residential School Survivors and their families a chance to **heal** and also to **raise awareness of the schools**.

-The idea of using an orange shirt as a symbol came from **Phyllis Webstad's personal experience**. (*see photo on right*)

She had her new orange shirt taken away from her when she first started as a student at St. Joseph's Residential School in 1973 at the age of 6. Thus the choice of the orange shirt today as a symbol.

-September 30th is also an opportunity for Canadians to **learn the truths of this school system** and **recognize current impacts on Indigenous people**.



Orange Shirt Day: Indigenous Perspectives



-This video is a message from Indigenous people to young people, *and all Canadians*, explaining the **importance** of Orange Shirt Day.

-It also helps explain how we can **ALL support** Truth and Reconciliation in Canada.

(6 min in length) Youtube - “Messages for Kids on Orange Shirt Day | CBC Kids News” (Tip - turn on the Closed Captioning)



Resistance of Survivors: Lillian Elias - Inuk



-Lillian Elias is an Inuk teacher, language advocate and Residential School Survivor.

-She was born in 1943 in the Northwest Territories and attended Immaculate Conception, a Roman Catholic residential school, for 5 years.

-A key purpose of the schools was to destroy Indigenous cultures and languages, and assimilate them into Canadian society.

-While at school, Lillian practiced her language, even when it meant being cruelly punished. She managed to maintain her language in spite of the school.

-After leaving the school, she went on to translate, teach and help preserve her language, Inuvialuktan, in her community!



2 min video from Historica Canada
(Tip - turn on the Closed Captioning)

Orange Shirt Day - Leaf Activity



-In this last activity, use the **leaf** outline given to you to write a short note.

**These messages will be displayed on the glass across from the main office.*

-The hope is that these activities have left you with ideas on how **you** can continue to the process of Truth and Reconciliation.

Orange Shirt Day - Leaf Activity



How the leaf is a symbol

-Imagine Indigenous people as **trees** that are supported by their **roots**, their family and community.

-The **leaves** help the tree grow and flourish. Imagine that they support Indigenous people spiritually, culturally and socially, economically and politically.

-These leaves were 'stripped' from Indigenous people by the schools. We are symbolically **returning the leaves** to the tree in this activity.

Orange Shirt Day - Activity

What to write on your leaf....

Actions (what you plan to do):

I will continue to learn...

I will be an ally by...

I will share what I know with others...

Truths (share what you know):

It is the truth that...

Residential Schools impacted...

I learned that...

**Or... write a personal message of support to
Residential Schools survivors and their families.**



Thank you to everyone at
AOB for participating in these
learning opportunities and
helping advance Truth and
Reconciliation in Canada!