



September 30 is now recognized as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This change comes as the fulfillment of a recommendation of the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada](#). Previously recognized as Orange Shirt Day, this year the day holds a much larger significance for Indigenous Peoples across Canada (and North America).

- ***“Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake in the spring of 2013. It grew out of Phyllis’s account of losing her shiny new orange shirt 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.”*** ([OrangeShirtDay.org](#))

The importance of this day lies with years of pain, history, and calls for action from Indigenous Peoples in this country. The recognition of a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is only the beginning of what truly needs to be done to undertake the important work of reconciliation.

Part of reconciliation means taking responsibility to educate our society about the past and to understand that our shared history as taught and understood has systematically erased the true experiences of Indigenous Peoples in Canada. Upon receiving an orange T-shirt, and agreeing to wear it on September 30, you are committing to learn more about the experiences of Indigenous peoples in Canada and to take responsibility for action that will foster reconciliation and inclusivity.

Signing this commitment in writing is an important first step on the path to reconciliation.

By signing this, I commit to the following:

- my own self-education of Indigenous history, through Indigenous and critical perspectives.
- my own continual learning and reflection of current Indigenous issues including, but not limited to, the truth about Residential Schools and the importance of the recoveries, the [Land Back](#) movement, [Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#), [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#), and more.
- upholding Indigenous rights and advancing self-determination.
- ensuring Indigenous members of the Queen’s community, particularly students, feel seen and heard, equally included, and properly represented in their studies and in campus life.
- being an accomplice when Indigenous issues are visible as well as when they are not.
- having self-awareness of my own identity, privilege, and role in disrupting patterns of injustice through my own education and increased awareness.

Most importantly, I commit to continued education and support for Indigenous Peoples in Canada, beyond the act of wearing this orange T-shirt on September 30.

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Signature

Date