



Norfolk General Hospital to honour National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Thursday, September 30, 2021, marks Canada's first [National Day for Truth and Reconciliation](#).

This day provides an opportunity to bring awareness to the painful legacy and impacts of the residential school system, particularly in light of the discoveries of unmarked gravesites at former residential school locations this year. It's a time to advance our reconciliation efforts and hold meaningful conversations in the spirit of reconciliation and hope.

The federal government established the new federal holiday in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. The Calls to Action, provides important direction for all levels of government, institutions, hospitals, and all Canadians to address the legacy of residential schools and advance reconciliation.

At Norfolk General Hospital, we are privileged to provide care on lands that Indigenous peoples have called home for thousands of years.

As we move forward into the future, we are committed to providing learning to staff. Education is foundational to understanding our role as Canadians, our role as a community hospital, and our role in reconciliation with our indigenous communities, neighbors, and friends.

Wear orange

Both the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and [Orange Shirt Day](#) take place on September 30.

Orange Shirt Day is an Indigenous-led grassroots commemorative day that honours the children who survived Indian Residential Schools and remembers those who did not. This day relates to the experience of Phyllis Webstad, a Northern Secwepemc (Shuswap) from the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation, on her first day of school, where she arrived dressed in a new orange shirt, which was taken from her. It is now a symbol of the stripping away of culture, freedom, and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children over generations.

On September 30, we encourage everyone to wear orange to raise awareness of the very tragic legacy of residential schools and to honour the thousands of Survivors.

To learn more

The sad legacy of Canada's residential schools must not be forgotten.

More information is available here:

Woodland Cultural Centre: <https://woodlandculturalcentre.ca/>

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action http://trc.ca/assets/pdf/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf

UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: https://www.un.org/.../sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf
See Less