

M4RR – September 2018
Orange Shirt Day: Every Child Matters
Sunday September 30th, 2018

What is Orange Shirt Day?

Orange Shirt Day is 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.

In 1973 six-year old Phyllis Webstad was gifted a brand new orange shirt from her grandmother and wore it to the residential (mission) school she attended in British Columbia. Upon her arrival, school officials removed and discarded the shirt from her and replaced it with a school uniform. This greatly impacted the mental and emotional well-being of Webstad and symbolized that "her feelings never mattered." September 30 was chosen as the date to commemorate all the children that attended residential schools as it was also the time of year that children had to leave their homes and communities to attend the schools. This annual campaign began in 2013 after Webstad shared this experience at a reunion with other survivors.

Join with hundreds of people across Canada and wear an orange shirt on Sunday September 30th to honour the children who survived the Indian Residential Schools and remember those that did not. We wear orange shirts in recognition of the harm the residential school system did to children's sense of self-esteem and well-being, and as an affirmation of our commitment to ensure that ***EVERY CHILD MATTERS!***

Prepared by Lisa Blais, DLM on behalf of the Manitou Conference Living into Right Relations Committee

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