

Orange Shirt Day
September 30th, 2020
M4RR (Minute for Right Relations)

Phyllis was delighted with the bright orange shirt that her grandmother gave her to wear on her first day at St. Joseph's Mission residential school in British Columbia. But when Phyllis arrived at the school, her clothes were taken away and she was given a uniform. Phyllis never saw that orange shirt again. She was very hurt and left with a feeling of worthlessness.

A reunion of the school was held in 2013, with events designed to commemorate the residential school experience, to witness and honour the healing journey of the survivors and their families, and to commit to the on-going process of reconciliation.

Phyllis (Jack) Webstad told the story of her orange shirt at that reunion. Since then, every year Orange Shirt Day is held on September 30, the time of year that children were taken from their homes to residential schools. It is an opportunity for children and adults to learn about the effects of Residential Schools and the legacy they left behind.

Show your commitment to reconciliation by wearing an orange shirt on September 30.

For more information: www.angeshirtday.org/

Prepared by Carol Germa on behalf of the Canadian Shield Regional Council Right Relations Resource Team

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