

YW TOOLKIT FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION LEARNING

September 2021



LEARNING IN RELATIONSHIP

We acknowledge this land.

We begin with acknowledging the land where we live, work and learn: This place named after the rivers, Moh'kinsstis, and all nations of the Treaty 7 region which includes the traditional territories and oral practices of the Blackfoot Confederacy and is home to the Siksika, the Piikani, the Kainai and the Amskapi Piikani as well as the Tsuut'ina First Nations, Iyahe Nakoda First Nations, and the Métis Nation - Region 3. Moh'kinsstis is the Blackfoot name for this gathering place now known as City of Calgary. **We are all treaty people.**

We are learners.

In the spirit of integrity and humbleness, we acknowledge YW Calgary is not an expert in Indigenous and Truth and Reconciliation matters. This toolkit was compiled by a group of staff volunteers with limited experience in truth and reconciliation and a willingness to learn. We are open to feedback and suggestions on how we can improve. Please email comments to edi@ywcalgary.ca or communications@ywcalgary.ca.

We are thankful.

We are grateful for the role played by **Tim Fox, Calgary Foundation Vice President of Indigenous Relations**, who guided our first steps on this path to Truth and Reconciliation. Tim's sharing of knowledge created a foundation for us to continue this learning.

We also thank **Miskanawah** for sharing their list of events and resources with us in preparation for the week.

BACKGROUND

What is the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation?

In response to the Truth & Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #80, the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation is an opportunity for us to listen and learn from Indigenous leaders, elders, and knowledge keepers on their lived experiences and perspectives. September 30 is also the annual

Orange Shirt Day, a day intended to open the door to conversations about the tragic legacy of residential schools.

On June 3, 2021, both houses of Canada's Parliament passed Bill C-5 recognizing September 30th, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, as federal holiday. The day provides an opportunity for everyone in Canada to recognize and commemorate the legacy of residential schools. (Government of Canada, 2021)

CALL TO ACTION #80

"We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, to establish, as a statutory holiday, a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to honour Survivors, their families, and communities, and ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process." [Calls to Action, Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#)

What is Orange Shirt Day?

Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) Residential School Commemoration Project and Reunion 2013 events in Williams Lake, BC. Former student Phyllis Jack-Webstad, a spokesperson for this group, shared her story of her first day at residential school when the bright orange shirt she was wearing was taken away.

Learn more about Orange Shirt Day [here](#) and Phyllis's story [here](#), and by watching the documentary *Returning Home* (2021) at the upcoming Calgary Intl Film Festival.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

COURSES

[Decolonize Everything](#) – Short courses

[Indigenous Canada](#) - Free online 21-hr course by University of Alberta on Coursera

[Indigenous Cultural Safety Collaborative Learning Series](#) - Several free recorded webinars

[Indigenous Issues 101 Series](#) on apihitawikosisan

LISTEN

CBC Podcast: [Unreserved with Rosanna Deerchild](#)

[The Truth & Reconciliation Commission Podcast](#)

CBC Podcast Series: [The Secret Life of Canada](#)

1. [What do you really know about the Indian Act?](#)
2. [Meet Autumn Peltier, teen water warrior](#)
3. [Atuat Akittirq has dedicated her life to keeping Inuit culture alive](#)
4. [Meet Oronhyatekha, the Mohawk doctor who made history](#)

READ

94 Calls to Action – Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada

Indian Horse by Richard Wagamese

Be Anti-Racist by Ibram X. Kendi

The Reason You Walk by Wab Kinew

White Fragility by Robin Diangelo

Seven Fallen Feathers: Racism, Death, and Hard Truths in a Northern City by Tanya Talaga

From the Ashes by Jesse Thistle

Firewater: How Alcohol is Killing my People (and Yours) by Harold R. Johnson

21 Things You May Not Know about The Indian Act by Bob Joseph

Ragged Company by Richard Wagamese

The Inconvenient Indian by Thomas King

Sôhkêyihta: The Poetry of Sky Dancer by Louise Bernice Halfe

The Break by Kathrena Vermette

Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Johnny Appleseed by Joshua Whitehead

Five Little Indians by Michelle Good

All Our Relations: Finding the Path Forward by Tanya Talaga

The Outside Circle: A Graphic Novel by Patti LaBoucane-Benson

Indigenous Relations: Insights, Tips & Suggestions to Make Reconciliation a Reality by Bob Joseph and Cynthia F Joseph

Half Breed by Maria Campbell

Waterlily by Ella Cara Deloria

Peace, Power, Righteousness: An Indigenous Manifesto by Taiaiake Alfred

A Recognition of Being – Reconstructing Native Womenhood by Kim Anderson

For Children

When We Were Alone by David Robertson & Julie Flett

Phyllis' Orange Shirt by Phyllis Webstad

I Am Not a Number by Jenny Kay Dupuis & Kathy Kacer

ART

DOCUMENTARIES

Quiet Killing (2018)	You Are on Indian Land (1969)
Wawahte: Stories of Residential School Survivors (2015)	Woodland Spirits (2007)
We Were Children (2012)	Sex Spirit Strength (2015)
Canada's Dark Secret (2021)	Nahanni: River of Forgiveness (2019)
We Will Be Free (2011)	Jordan River Anderson: The Messenger (2019)
Amisk (1977)	Colonization Road (2016)
Acts of Defiance (1992)	Becoming Nakuset (2020)
Attiuk (1963)	Angry Inuk (2016)
Cesar's Bark Canoe (1971)	Inendi (2020)
History of Manawan (1972)	Trapped in a Human Zoo (2016)
The Invisible Nation (2007)	The Pass System (2015)
Kanehsatake: 270 Years of Resistance (1993)	Indictment: The Crimes of Shelly Chartier (2017)
No Address (1988)	Stories from the Land (2021)
Okimah (1998)	
Power (1996)	Many can be streamed for free through nfb.ca or CBC.ca
Our Nationhood (2003)	
Six Miles Deep (2009)	
Nîpawistamâsowin: We Will Stand Up (2019)	

BELTLINE URBAN MURALS PROJECT

BUMP Indigenous Artists: The Beltline Urban Murals Project is a community-driven initiative that began in 2017. Each year, the BUMP Festival runs throughout August with vibrant murals popping up all over the Beltline and surrounding communities as well as mural tours, live music, and more! You can access a map of the 50+ murals around Calgary with information about each artist and piece [here](#).

Keep an eye out for the following Indigenous artists, and plan a tour to view these pieces around Mohkînstsis:

CALGARY INTL FILM FESTIVAL

Calgary International Film Festival's [Indigenous films here](#)

[Night Raiders](#)

[Don't Say Its Name](#)

[Kimmapiiyipitssini: The Meaning of Empathy One of Ours](#)

[Portraits From a Fire](#)

[Returning Home](#)

Follows Phyllis Jack-Webstad, the inspiration behind Orange Shirt Day

[Run Woman Run](#)

[Wildhood](#)

[Shorts: Alberta Spirit Narratives](#)

[Shorts: Midnight Ravers](#)

[Shorts: Positive Vibration](#)

[Shorts: Youth by Youth Cinema](#)

[Tribal, Season 2](#)



Pictured here: portrait of Amy Miller, founder of Moonstone Creation, tribute by Kamâmak And Bb Iskwew

[Kamâmak And Bb Iskwew](#)

[Nathan Meguinis](#)

[Sarah Houle-Lowry](#)

[Kalum Teke Dan](#)

[Kay Gallivan](#)

[Kevin Cardinal](#)

SUPPORT

ACT

Thanks to miskanawah for sharing the following:

- Learn whose traditional territory you are on
- Go further: Learn how to do “go off-script” with a land acknowledgement and incorporate this decolonizing practice meaningfully
- How to become an ally using Calgary Foundation’s [Treaty 7 Indigenous Ally Toolkit](#)
- Email your MP & MLA to demand action to push forward the 94 Calls to Action
- Stand up to stereotypes, prejudice and racism
- Have open conversations with your family and friends
- Raise awareness in your community and online
- Make a donation to the Indian Residential School Survivors Society or another Indigenous serving organization (*like Miskanawah!*)
- Make a donation to the [Downie Wenjack Fund](#)
- Consider attending the [Residential School Tour](#) hosted by the Woodland Cultural Centre to learn more about the impacts of residential schools and how to support survivors

SUPPORT INDIGENOUS ORGANIZATIONS AND BUSINESSES

Join non-profit organizations who are looking for volunteers, such as [Aboriginal Friendship Centre](#), or [The Alex](#), to support indigenous community members.

Buy an Orange Shirt and art from [Moonstone Creation](#)

Buy an Orange Shirt from the [Orange Shirt Society](#) directly or through [London Drugs](#) (who are selling official shirts with 100% going to the Orange Shirt Society)

Other indigenous businesses to support:

[Original403](#)

[Indigenous Box](#)

[Aahksoyo’p Indigenous Comfort Food](#)

[Cheekbone Beauty](#)

[Loretta’s Wellness Circle](#)

[Native Diva Creations](#)

[Indi City](#)

[Indigenous Box](#)

[The Equinox Box](#)

[Raven Reads](#)

T&R EVENTS

Event	Date/Time	Location	Link	Description
CIFRS Indigenous Art Exhibit by Colouring It Forward Reconciliation Society	September 1-30 During mall hours	Southcentre Mall	Learn More	
Shadows In Time - Film Screening by Stardale Women's Group and Calgary Public Library	September 23 6:30 – 9:00pm	Patricia A. Whelan Performance Hall - Central Library	Register here	
Loop Cultural Gathering by Antyx Community Arts and Diamond Willow Youth Lodge	September 25 2:00 – 6:00pm	Genesis Centre: Multipurpose Room A and B	More info here	Youth leaders will share summer art projects, and there will be dancing, drumming, music, etc.!
Pokaiks – the Children: Orange Shirt Day Event by CIF Reconciliation Society, City of Calgary, Elders	September 25 10:00am	3 Street & 8 Ave SW Downtown Calgary		Memorial walk will start from 3rd St & 8th Ave SW and head to Olympic Plaza for an afternoon of events.
Calgary International Film Festival – Indigenous Films	September 23 to October 3	Cineplex Odeon Eau Claire and some online	More info here	
Calgary International Film Festival – DGC Visionaries: Indigenous Film Makers Panel	September 25 2:15pm	Bruch Bar (200-208 Barclay Parade SW) Virtual	Join here	Conversations with the filmmakers behind this festival season's most talked-about films.

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Truth and Reconciliation Week by National Centre for Truth & Reconciliation	September 27 to October 1	Virtual	Register here	The programming will feature short videos created by Indigenous storytellers, followed by conversations with Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Survivors, and the children of Survivors of residential schools.
Truth and Reconciliation Week by Red River College	September 27 to October 1	Virtual	Register here	Hear Indigenous voices & engage in the conversation around Every Child Matters, the Canadian Residential School System, intergenerational trauma, healing, and strength.
Impacts of Intergenerational Trauma by The Calgary Foundation	September 28 10:00am – 2:00pm	Virtual facilitated learning experience	Register here	Join Calgary Foundation for an opportunity to walk alongside one another on the path of reconciliation leading up to the National Day of Truth & Reconciliation on Sep 30 th
A Survivor's Story: My Journey from Indian Residential School to Success by The Law Society of Alberta	September 29 12:00 – 1:00pm	Virtual	Register here	Eugene J. Creighton will share his story on how he survived 9 years at the St. Mary's Indian Residential School, and how to take next steps towards reconciliation.

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Family Practices and Oral Learning: A family night for all ages by Grow with Trellis	September 29 6:00 – 7:15pm	Virtual	Register here	You and your family will hear storytelling, humour and traditional teachings from an Elder and community leaders, on the eve of Orange Shirt Day.
Expanding Our Relations: Oral concepts of understanding by Grow with Trellis	September 30 1:00 – 3:00pm	Virtual	Register here	You are invited to join us for a rich cultural experience to discuss the roles of traditional care and kinship; not just for our homes, but for all spaces we are in.
CIFRS National Day of Truth & Reconciliation by Colouring It Forward Reconciliation Society	September 30 10:00am – 8:00pm; Blessing and Traditional Dance at 1:00pm	Southcentre Mall	Learn More	Begins with family activities to promote understanding of Indigenous culture and experiences, while also educating the community about how they can play an active role in reconciliation.
IndigiTRAILS Launch by The Urban Society of Aboriginal Youth	September 30 11:00am – 2:00pm	Prince's Island Park		Honouring Residential School Survivors, Indigenous youth have created a digital art installation. At Prince's Island Park you can download the IndigiTRAILS app and take a 30 minute walk to view the installations.
U of C Indigenous Writers' Panel: Literature on Intergenerational Trauma and Healing	September 30 12:00pm – 1:30 pm	Virtual	Event info here	Join a panel with Eden Robinson, Richard Van Camp and Lee Maracle who will share their literature on intergenerational trauma and Indigenous resilience.
Orange Shirt Day by the City of Calgary	September 30 11:00 – 1:00pm	Virtual Join here	More info here	All Calgarians are invited to join The City for a walk and ceremony to remember the children who did not come home.

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Faculty of Social Work Annual Gayle Gilchrist James Lecture by U of C	September 30 2:00 – 3:30pm	Virtual	Register here	This Faculty of Social Work panel discussion examines parallels between Indigenous ways of knowing and modern science.
Memorial Gathering Honouring Our Indigenous Brothers & Sisters by Indigenous Resident-Led Community Initiative	September 30 3:30 – 6:30pm	Bob Bahan Athletic Field 4812 14 ave SE Calgary	Learn more here	Everyone Welcome. Mini Pow-Wow ending with a round dance. Vendor tables with Indigenous arts and craft, traditional Indigenous games, crafts for kids, and Indigenous meal provided.
Sisters in Spirit Virtual Vigil by Native Women's Association of Canada	October 4 2:00 – 3:30pm	Virtual Join here	Learn more	NWAC will hold a live-streaming Virtual Vigil on October 4, at 2pm.

And a special thank you to the following YW Calgary employees who put this together:
Freshia Corpus, Emily Tetrault, Zandi Moyo, Richard Kendall, Dana Prior, Kathleen Kelly, Emily Steen, and Safa Shanneb.