



Event Brief: National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

Orange Shirt Day – now also the National [Day for Truth and Reconciliation](#) – is a time of collective remembrance during which we honour those who attended Residential Schools as well as their families and communities. It is also a time to demonstrate personal and organizational commitments to reconciliation and recognize our shared colonial history, to commemorate the children who were lost, to redouble efforts to support Survivors and to reflect on the ongoing intergenerational trauma caused by Residential Schools.

[Residential schools](#) were cultural genocide. Learning about these institutions and our shared colonial history can be difficult, and acknowledging this history and ongoing harm caused by the Residential school system is crucial — we cannot have reconciliation until we have the truth. Reflecting on the history of the Sault Ste. Marie Algoma University campus, which resides on the site and in the building of the former Shingwauk Residential School, Algoma University has a unique responsibility to be leaders in decolonization, Indigenization and respect.

To support staff, students and partners of Algoma University, in their awareness and understanding of the significance of Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, our planning team has organized in-person and virtual events across all three Algoma U campuses. As Sept. 30, 2023, falls on a Saturday, Algoma University will host events on Friday, Sept. 29 to encourage attendance of students, faculty, staff and community partners, and encourage members of our university community to continue education and commemoration throughout the weekend at community events, and in private reflection.

University administration, departmental leads and faculty are encouraged to connect with Patty.chabbert@algomau.ca, Decolonization Lead, to support attendance and understanding within program and administrative areas. Community partners and organizations are encouraged to connect with Paul.sayers@algomau.ca, Manager of Indigenous Community Relations, Training and Development, to support organizations in participating in activities, or speak about further organizational training, such as [Gabegendaadowin \(Gah-bay-gun-DAH-dow-win\)](#).

Brampton Campus Session Summaries

Orange Shirt Day & National Day for Truth and Reconciliation



This session introduces Orange Shirt Day, The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and provides an overview of Residential Schools in Canada. This session is open and all are encouraged to attend.

Run Woman Run: Feature Film Showing & Discussion

What is the [Indigenous Film Program at Reel Canada](#)? Why are we Partnering for Orange Shirt Day and National Day of Truth and Reconciliation?

The feature film, “Run Woman Run” is a lighthearted film with serious messages of recovery from Residential School trauma, self-discovery and the erasure of Indigenous languages. It doesn't shy away from the big topics, but at its heart, it is an underdog story about overcoming obstacles and belief in one's self. This film is by critically acclaimed writer/director Zoe Hopkins (Kayak to Klemtu) of Six Nations, helping audiences connect to the lands in which Brampton Campus resides.

The Indigenous Film program features a selection of Indigenous-made films by filmmakers from diverse nations across Canada. When Indigenous stories are told by Indigenous filmmakers, the result is authentic, self-determined cultural expression. These films reflect Indigenous experiences and provide an opportunity for dialogue, cross-cultural exchange and greater understanding.

This program also includes nearly 100 film-specific lesson plans in over a dozen subject areas for Indigenous-made content. There are also additional resources for educators tackling difficult subjects such as Residential Schools or anti-Indigenous racism in the classroom. We encourage faculty to connect with Patty.chabbert@algomau.ca to involve classes.

[Shingwauk Indian Residential School](#) Site Visits: Truth Telling and Reconciliation at Algoma University

- Shingwauk Indian Residential School operated from 1873-1970
- Shingwauk Hall opened in 1934
- Residential Schools that impacted FN, Métis and Inuit children from roughly 85 communities across Canada
- The first Shingwauk Indian Residential School reunion took place in 1981 and the second in 1991 at which time the Children of Shingwauk Alumni Association (CSAA) was officially started



(This para is ok) From these events began the decades-long work of collecting, organizing, and displaying photographs and other Residential School materials, conducting research, and educating the public. This work led to the establishment of the Children of Shingwauk Alumni Association and the Shingwauk Project, now known as the [Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre](#), respectively and includes a vast collection of documents chronicling the experiences of Residential School Survivors. The Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre is one of the important ways Algoma University honours the history of the Algoma Sault Saint Marie campus and amplifies the voices of Survivors.

In-person and virtual site visits will be offered on September 29th. The full schedule can be found [here](#). Staff, faculty and students as well as the public are encouraged to attend.

[Click here](#), to book a future site visit, as part of your commitment to Truth and Reconciliation.

Reconciliation in Post-Secondary Spaces Faculty and Staff Session

This session explores the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action at the Brampton Campus, looking at practical ways to push reconciliation forward in post-secondary spaces, within educational, economic and health-related contexts. This session will focus on engagement with Indigenous communities, and highlight the importance of lived experiences and Indigenous knowledge in program/curriculum planning and campus spaces. Staff and faculty are encouraged to attend. The session will be facilitated by Patty Chabbert, Decolonization Lead. Please email Patty.chabbert@algomau.ca to register.

[Gabegendaadwin \(Gah-bay-gun-DAH-dow-win\)](#) Launch Thursday, Sept. 28

Prior to Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Gabegendaadwin will be launched at Algoma's Brampton Campus. Local businesses, faculty, and administrators are welcome. The objective of the program is to bridge understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. This will occur by fostering an environment of greater understanding of Indigenous Peoples and communities, and the responsibility that Canadians have in actively facilitating and supporting systemic change. Contact [Paul Sayers](#), Manager Indigenous Community Relations, Training & Development for more information.

More About Orange Shirt Day and Day of Truth and Reconciliation



What is Orange Shirt Day

In 1973, when Phyllis (Jack) Webstad was six years old, she was sent to the Mission School near Williams Lake, BC. Her memory of her first day at the Mission School was that of having her personal clothes taken away, which included the new orange shirt given to her by her grandmother.

During the 2013 *St. Joseph Mission (SJM) Residential School (1891-1981)* Commemoration Project and Reunion events that took place in Williams Lake, Phyllis shared her story with those in attendance. From this, Orange Shirt Day emerged. The September 30th date was chosen because it was the time of year in which children were taken from their homes and families to Residential Schools, and the date now provides an opportunity to set the stage for reconciliation within education.

[Phyllis' story](#) reminds us every day of the children who were taken from their families and sent to Residential Schools.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Also falling on Sept. 30, this new statutory holiday was created in response to Call 80 within the TRC's [94 Calls to Action](#) which recommended the federal government establish a statutory holiday to commemorate a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to honour Survivors, their families, and communities.

Orange Shirt Day Spartan Run

On Saturday, September 30th at 12:00 pm, local runners/walkers will take to the paths wearing orange shirts and travelling 9.3km each in honour of children who never came home, and Survivors of Residential Schools.

Participants will travel a route that begins at Shingwauk Hall and returns to the same location. All those participating are encouraged to continue their interaction and engagement with local Indigenous groups, sharing knowledge and experiences.

For more information, please contact Sonny Spina at 705 257 8379 or sonny@sonnyspina.com

We encourage you to keep learning with these materials:

Resources:



- [Canadian Residential School history](#) – a video produced by the Orange Shirt Day Society
- [Phyllis Webstad's story](#) – a video produced by the Orange Shirt Day Society
- [Honourable Murray Sinclair: Impacts of Residential Schools](#) – a video produced by the Orange Shirt Day Society
- [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada – Calls to Action](#)
- [Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada](#)

Recently released films/series that address Residential Schools:

- Bones of Crows
- We Were Children
- Little Bird
- Indian Horse

Books on Residential Schools:

- Resilience: Honouring the Children of Residential Schools, by Geraldine Shingoose
- A Knock on the Door, by Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada
- They Called Me Number One, by Bev Sellars
- Indigenous Relations: Insights, Tips & Suggestions to Make Reconciliation a Reality, Bob Joseph
- Unsettling the Settler Within, by Paulette Regan
- From the Ashes: My Story of Being Métis, Homeless, and Finding My Way, by Jesse Thistle
- Speaking Our Truth: A Journey of Reconciliation, by Monique Gray Smith
- When We Were Alone, by David A. Robertson
- 21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act, by Bob Joseph
- Ensouling Our Schools, by Jennifer Katz
- Righting Canada's Wrongs, by Melanie Florence
- Five Little Indians, by Michelle Good
- A National Crime: The Canadian Government and the Residential School System, by John S. Milloy