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## EMPOWER

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We respectfully acknowledge the CRCVC office is located on the traditional, unceded territories of the Omàmiwininiwag (Algonquin peoples) Nation.

**Text:** Our number is 613-208-0747

**Chat:** Please access through our [website](#).

For hours of operation and other info, please [click here](#).

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This year, CRCVC is celebrating its 30th anniversary! Thanks to all of your support, we've been able to bring meaningful change to victims of crime and their families over the last 30 years. The mission of this organization wouldn't have been accomplished without the efforts of our team, our sponsors and partnerships, as well as our donors, so thank you!

If you or your organization is interested in supporting CRCVC during its 30th anniversary, please email us at [crcvc@crcvc.ca](mailto:crcvc@crcvc.ca) or make a [donation here today](#).

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## Orange Shirt Day and National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

Orange Shirt Day and National Day of Truth and Reconciliation are both observed on September 30th. Canadians are encouraged to wear orange on September 30th in the spirit of healing and reconciliation and to honour the Survivors of residential schools. September 30th is designated as the day to advocate the concept of “Every Child Matters” and raise awareness of the intergenerational impacts of residential schools at the individual, familial, and community levels. The orange shirt symbolizes the generations of Indigenous children who were forced to relinquish their culture, freedom, language, families, and self-esteem.

According to [Shreya Shah](#), in 2013, Phyllis Webstad, Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation, started Orange Shirt Day to create a symbol of solidarity with Survivors of residential schools. Phyllis, being a Survivor herself, chose the colour orange because it reminded her of the orange shirt her grandmother bought her for the first day of school. When she was six years old, Phyllis was taken from her family and brought to St. Joseph's Mission School, where she was stripped of her belongings, including her orange shirt. The colour orange is intended to remind everyone of the Indigenous children and their families' experiences and what they endured.

Furthermore, Shah explains that “Every Child Matters” was created to bring attention to the atrocious way most Indigenous children were treated while in the Residential schools. They were made to feel as if they did not matter, hence the name. This call to action is for every Indigenous child to never feel that they do not matter and for everyone to fight for Indigenous rights.

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation is meant to raise awareness of the historical harm and impacts Indigenous communities still grapple with today. This day became a statutory holiday in response to the [Calls to Action](#), specifically the Call to Action #80 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. The federal government in collaboration with the Aboriginal peoples was called upon to establish a statutory holiday to ensure that the public commemorates the legacy, harmful impacts, and history of residential schools. And to provide an opportunity for people to reflect upon the harms inflicted on the Indigenous peoples so that the reconciliation process can begin. As a result, Bill C-5 received Royal Assent on June 3, 2021, and the first official federal National Day for Truth and Reconciliation statutory holiday was on September 30, 2021.

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## What Can You Do This Truth and Reconciliation Day?!

On September 30th, it is especially important to take a moment and acknowledge the history of Indigenous People in Canada and the impact that Residential schools and overall colonization of Canada had and still have on the lives of Indigenous people. Though Reconciliation is an ongoing process, there are many ways to show your support and honour Residential school survivors this Saturday, September 30th. Listed below are a few ways to actively show your support this upcoming Saturday:

### 1. Spreading awareness on social media:

Put on your Orange shirt and post a picture on social media to show support! Share posts about Indigenous People's stories and events happening in your area so your friends, families, and followers can become informed and participate in Reconciliation. Encourage your followers to reshare all your posts to continue spreading awareness!

### 2. Support a Local Business:

Check out the [Indigenous Business Directory](#) to find an Indigenous-owned business to support near you (though not all Indigenous-owned businesses are posted on this site, a quick Google search will also show you plenty in your area!).

### 3. Land Acknowledgements:

Acknowledge the land you are living on; recognize the importance, meaning, and history of the territory, and honour its original inhabitants. Check out [Territory Acknowledgement](#) to find acknowledgments in your area and to better your understanding of how to properly acknowledge the land.

### 4. Check out Arts:

Support the work of Indigenous artisans and learn about the different kinds of traditional crafts, such as quillworks, birch bark, basket weaving, carving, and more. Enrich yourself in the history and meaning of these art pieces. Read powerful Indigenous literature like poetry, playwrights, and novels by influential Indigenous authors in Canada such as Richard Wagamese, Thomas King, Eden Robinson, Rita Joe, and

so many more.

#### 5. Watch, Listen and Learn:

There are plenty of free documentaries and podcasts that highlight the experiences of Indigenous People in Canada. Learn about the histories and present-day struggles, the different cultures and traditions, and listen to plenty of compelling and important stories of different lived experiences of Indigenous People in Canada. Check out CBC TV, CBC Gem, CBC News Explore, CBC News Network, CBC Kids, CBC Radio, CBC Listen, and CBC Music, any time to enrich yourself with compelling and heart-wrenching stories. Head to [Honour National Day for Truth and Reconciliation](#) on September 30th to listen to their special NDTR programming.

#### 6. Donate:

Search [here](#) to find Indigenous charities across Canada that resonate with you. Learn about their missions, goals, and purpose and actively look for ways you could get involved, volunteer, and contribute to their cause.

Whether it is wearing an orange shirt, donating to a charity, or participating in community events, it is important to value, respect, and honour the Indigenous community as it is their land and waters that we share in Canada.

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## Disappointment Felt by Slain Women's Families

September 18, 2023, is the International Day of Action to Search the Landfills, as marked by Amnesty International Canada. This day is set aside to honour missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit and gender-diverse people whose remains are believed to still be in the Prairie Green, Brady Road Landfills, or other landfills across Canada or those whose remains have already been found. On the International Day of Action to Search Landfills, families of the two slain Winnipeg women, Morgan Harris and Mercedes Myran, marched to Parliament Hill to meet with the Ottawa minister.

Families of the slain women, supporters, and First Nations advocacy organizations traveled to Ottawa from Manitoba in hopes of getting the Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Gary Anandasangaree to agree to help fund the search for the remains of the murdered women believed to be in the Brady Road Landfill.

The rally to Parliament Hill proved to be disappointing because funding for the landfill search was denied. The response given by the government was that the search would be dangerous for the workers because of the risk of being exposed to toxic materials and asbestos.

The daughter of Morgan Harris, Cambria, stated to [The Canadian Press](#) journalist, that the meeting was a "retraumatizing experience" and "It was clear today -the precedent was set - that reconciliation is dead." Anandasangaree stated that they will continue to discuss possible next steps with the assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and the Long Plain First Nation and are committed to ongoing dialogue. This statement falls short of the peace and respect the families want to bring to their murdered loved ones.

Additionally, the families await the trial of the man charged with murdering the four Indigenous women, scheduled to begin in April 2024. Alleged serial killer, Jeremy Skibicki, was charged with the first-degree murder of four Winnipeg women, namely Mercedes, Myran, Morgan Harris, Rebecca Contois, and a fourth unidentified woman now referred to as Buffalo Woman. Skibicki was reported to have killed the four Indigenous women between March and May 2022. Previously charged and convicted of assaulting his ex-common-law partner in 2015, he spent 2 months behind bars and then was sentenced to a two-year probation. Court documents show that Skibicki threatened to kill two previous partners. [CBC News](#) delineates a timeline of known facts about Skibicki and the four slain women.

## Upcoming Events

### Homicide Support Group

Our **Homicide Support Group** is for family members, friends, and close loved ones of homicide victims and is intended to offer peer support to those dealing with violent loss. This support group is offered nationally meaning that we can connect with and support survivors from across the country. *English only.*

**When:** October 26th, 6:30 PM EST

**Where:** Virtually

**To RSVP:** email us at [crcvc@crcvc.ca](mailto:crcvc@crcvc.ca) or call us at 1-877-232-2610



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### September 30th Events

Buildings across Canada, such as the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill, will be illuminated in orange. Illuminating the buildings in orange commemorates the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and the Survivors and families of the residential schools. Additionally, the [Associated Press Television News \(APTN\)](#) and the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation will broadcast a live special, 12:30 pm ET, from Parliament Hill. This live special entitled, Remembering The Children: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation 2023, is a multilingual, commemorative gathering which honours the Survivors, their families, communities, and all the children who never returned home.

Additionally, every province and territory will be hosting different [events](#) to commemorate the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

A national crisis line is available for Survivors who need emotional support. This line is available 7 days a

week, 24 hours a day.

**Residential School Survivor Support Line: 1-866-925-4419**

The [Indian Residential Schools Resolution Help Support Program](#) offers emotional, cultural, and professional support to Survivors and their families. These services can be accessed in an individual, family, or group setting.

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