

Orange Shirt Day in 15 Facts

- 1.** Orange Shirt Day is every year on September 30.
- 2.** It started in Canada in 2013.
- 3.** The day honors Indigenous children who were sent to residential schools.
- 4.** It also supports survivors and their families.
- 5.** The color comes from a new orange shirt a girl named Phyllis Webstad had taken away on her first day at a residential school.
- 6.** The main message is “Every Child Matters.”
- 7.** People wear orange shirts to show care and a willingness to listen and learn.
- 8.** Many schools do read-alouds, art projects, or assemblies on this day.
- 9.** The day encourages listening to Elders and Knowledge Keepers.
- 10.** Residential schools were in Canada for over 100 years; the last one closed in 1996.
- 11.** At these schools, many children were not allowed to speak their own languages or practice their cultures.
- 12.** September 30 is also the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (a federal day of remembrance and learning).
- 13.** The orange shirt is a reminder to make schools safe and welcoming, so all kids feel proud of who they are.
- 14.** Communities across Canada—and even some in other countries—join in by wearing orange and learning together.
- 15.** The Orange Shirt Society helps share the story and provides learning resources for classrooms.