



NEWS RELEASE

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF STRATFORD

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City of Stratford to Mark National Day for Truth and Reconciliation September 30

Earlier this year, the federal government passed legislation to recognize September 30 as a federal statutory holiday known as National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

The City of Stratford encourages all citizens to take some time Thursday to reflect on the tragic history and difficult legacy of Canada's residential school system, and to learn more about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

Orange flags with Every Child Matters printed on them will be flown at City Hall and other municipal buildings Thursday.

Mayor Dan Mathieson will lay an orange shirt on the steps of City Hall Thursday as a symbolic gesture to recognize and honour the children, families and communities impacted by residential schools in Canada. Citizens are also invited to lay an orange shirt or a pair of children's shoes on the steps at City Hall that day. Some orange shirts will be made available for those who do not have one of their own to place there.

Everyone is encouraged to observe a moment of silence at 2:15 p.m. Thursday, to coincide with the first discovery of 215 unmarked graves at the site of a former residential school in Kamloops, B.C. in May. More unmarked graves in Canada were subsequently discovered.

To learn more about the history and legacy of residential schools in Canada, please visit the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation website at <https://nctr.ca/>

The Stratford Public Library is also offering Orange Shirt Day learning kits, and a Messages of Solidarity postcard campaign. For more information, visit <https://stratford.library.on.ca/truthandreconciliation>

The City of Stratford recognizes that the Truth and Reconciliation process is not something that occurs on one day of the year only.

The City is currently consulting with Indigenous leaders and organizations on the development of a Territorial Land Acknowledgment for Stratford.

An action plan in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action is also being developed.