



## AAO Statement on National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day

September 29, 2021

Dear AAO Members,

September 30th has been federally designated the [National Day for Truth and Reconciliation](#). The day honours the lost children and Survivors of residential schools, their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history as well as the recognition of the ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process.

Since 2013, September 30th has also been [Orange Shirt Day](#), which is an Indigenous-led commemorative day to honour the children who were sent to Indian Residential Schools and stripped of their culture and freedom. September 30th was chosen to honour the experience of Phyllis Webstad, a Northern Secwepemc (Shuswap) from the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation who, on her first day of school, had her new orange shirt taken from her.

It is a day to engage in commemorative events, to make space for meaningful conversation, and to reflect upon how we may support reconciliation efforts individually, as organizations, and as a profession.

The AAO encourages its membership to learn from the teachings and examples of Indigenous Elders, colleagues, and organizations, from official reports and from the experiences of colleagues working in archives as they reflect on our institutional histories and our current relationships with Indigenous communities. Some of these resources are shared below.

- Archives Association of Ontario's '[Towards Truth and Reconciliation](#)' resource page
- The [Residential School Settlement website](#) provides a list of the locations of the residential schools in all provinces and territories
- '[On Orange Shirt Day](#)' (2021) Phyllis Webstad explains her experience at Residential School and the origination of Orange Shirt Day in Canada
- [Calls to Action Accountability: A 2020 Status Update on Reconciliation, \(2020\)](#) by Eva Jewell and Ian Mosby
- [Reclaiming Shingwauk: Cross-Cultural Learning and Programming](#) (2020)
- [Non-Indigenous people — here's what you can do, right now](#) (2021) by Anna McKenzie, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter and Jacqueline Ronson
- [Response to the Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Taskforce](#) (2021), Steering Committee on Canada's Archives
- '[An Overview of the Indian Residential School System](#)' (2013) by the Union of Ontario Indians

Sincerely,  
AAO Board of Directors