

September 14, 2017

All Staff:

In many schools across Canada, Orange Shirt Day is celebrated on September 30 (September 29 this year). Students and staff are invited to wear orange shirts as a symbol of the wrongs done by the residential school system to Aboriginal children and communities. For more information on the origin of Orange Shirt Day, visit

<http://www.orangeshirtday.org/phyllis-story.html>

In the 10-year Education Plan, we made a commitment to inform students of the history of residential schools. September 30 is an opportunity to take some steps toward that objective and toward reconciliation.

I invite you to commemorate this day with your co-workers and students by wearing an orange shirt on September 29 and by participating in the activities suggested in the attachment.

Residential schools left their mark on Aboriginal people, and Orange Shirt Day gives us an opportunity to better understand the history that binds us.

"Reconciliation [...] as they heal from the destructive legacies of colonization [...] must inspire Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples to transform Canadian society so that our children and grandchildren can live together in dignity, peace, and prosperity on these lands we now share." (Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, 2015, p.7)

Sincerely,



Hon. Brian Kenny
Minister

