



OSSTF/FEESO recognizes Orange Shirt Day on September 30, 2019

To: Presidents and All Members

From: Domenic Bellissimo, Associate General Secretary – Professional Services

For Action

OSSTF/FEESO recognizes September 30, 2019 as Orange Shirt Day and encourages all members to take part in observing this event.

Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake, BC, Canada, which was first held in the spring of 2013.

It grew out of an account by a former First Nations student who had her orange shirt taken away on her first day of school at the Mission, and has evolved into an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools going on an annual basis. The end of September was selected as the date of recognition, as it represented the time of year when First Nations, Métis and Inuit children were taken away from their homes to be placed in residential schools.

This year, Orange Shirt Day falls on a Monday. On that day, members are encouraged to talk to fellow staff and students about the legacy of the residential school system, as well as how we can all work together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.

Members are encouraged to share images and messages on social media that demonstrates their support for this day using the hashtags - #OrangeShirtDay, #EveryChildMatters, and #OSSTF. Provincial Office staff and local leaders attending Provincial Council will be encouraged to wear an orange shirt on Friday, September 27 to recognize this day.

Members can order their own “Every Child Matters” orange shirt from the [Orange Shirt Day website](#).

Here are some resources that you may want to view leading up to Orange Shirt Day on September 30

- [Orange Shirt Day—Every Child Matters](#)
- [Orange Shirt Day—Resources and Ideas](#)



- [Full Circle—First Nations, Métis, Inuit Ways of Knowing](#)
(OSSTF/FEESO Curriculum Resource)
- [OSSTF/FEESO List of First Nations, Métis, Inuit Resources – Indian Residential Schools in Canada](#)
- [Orange Shirt Day—Facebook Page](#)
- [Ontario Teachers' Federation - Resource Links for Indigenous Education](#)

For more information, please contact Dan Earle at the Provincial Office (dan.earle@osstf.ca)

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