

**Why
we wear
ORANGE**

Listening

THE WITNESS BLANKET

The Witness Blanket is a large-scale work of art inspired by a woven blanket. It contains hundreds of items. They were reclaimed from residential schools, churches, government buildings and traditional and cultural structures from across Canada. It stands as a national monument to recognize the atrocities of the Indian residential school era. It honours the children and the Survivors. It symbolizes ongoing reconciliation.

Each piece of history that took its place on the Blanket is a silent witness to some part of this story. Individually, they are fragments of a disappearing narrative. Together they are strong. Together, they recount for future generations the true story of loss, strength, reconciliation and pride.

**WE INVITE YOU TO USE YOUR PHONE TO EXPLORE
THE ONLINE VERSION OF THE WITNESS BLANKET
AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HISTORY OF
RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS IN CANADA.**



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Learning

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

94 CALLS FOR ACTION

September 30 is the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation in Canada. The day coincides with Orange Shirt Day, a grassroots commemoration marked by the wearing of Orange Shirts for children forced to leave their families and attend residential schools.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (or TRC) was active from 2008 to 2015 and documented the stories of survivors, families, and communities affected by residential schools. Established to assimilate Indigenous children into euro-Canadian culture and remove Indigenous identity, many well documented abuses took place. The report released at the conclusion of the TRC included 94 calls to action suggested by those most impacted in an effort to repair the harms caused by residential schools.



WE INVITE YOU TO USE YOUR PHONE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CALLS TO ACTION. BEYOND 94 IS AN ONLINE RESOURCE THAT PROVIDES UP-TO-DATE STATUS REPORTS KEEPING CANADIANS INFORMED ON THE PROGRESS

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*Reflecting
on Scripture*

**YOUR WORD IS A LAMP FOR MY FEET,
A LIGHT ON MY PATH.**

PSALM 119:105

**Today I invite you to pause.
To sit in the sacred ordinary and
listen to the scriptures speak.**

The story of Zacchaeus is a story of reconciliation.

Reconciliation to God

Reconciliation to oneself

Reconciliation to your neighbour.

**Zacchaeus teaches us that reconciliation is costly- it
requires all of us.**

I invite you to reflect on the story of Zacchaeus.

**Take a scripture reflection sheet and
find a place to sit.**

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Visio Divina

Posted around you will notice images from Orange Shirt Day Society. These images represent the annual Orange Shirt Day Campaign.

I invite you to reflect on these images.

What message do you think the artist is trying to convey?

Are there scripture verses that come to mind as you see an image?

Does it remind you of a song we sing in worship?

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Responding

The interesting thing about reconciliation is that it really is a personal journey that starts internally, and then slowly works in through your family and through your communities and through society.

Karen Joseph

What does Reconciliation mean to you?

As you have taken time to listen and learn about Truth and Reconciliation we invite you to think your journey towards reconciliation.

Reconciliation is difficult work.
Reconciliation is not a race- it is not a checklist or a competition.

It is sitting together and talking over tea.
It is hearing the stories of Residential School Survivors and their families.

It is engaging with the TRC Calls to Action.

It is attending Indigenous events

It is supporting Indigenous Artists.

It is going to Powwow.

Reconciliation is about relationships.

**WE INVITE YOU TO THINK ABOUT YOUR NEXT RECONCILIATION
STEPS AND ADD A WORD TO THE RECONCILIATION WORD CLOUD
THAT IS BEING CREATED.**