



Media Release

Town of Midland observes National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

September 30, 2021 – This morning the Town of Midland observed the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, also known as Orange Shirt Day, by lowering the Every Child Matters flag to half-mast at the Town Municipal Office.

“The Town of Midland recognizes and seeks to raise awareness about residential and day schools in Canada,” said Mayor Stewart Strathearn. “We all join together in the spirit of reconciliation to honour the victims, the survivors and the lived experience of Indigenous Peoples”.

All staff and Council were encouraged to wear an orange shirt as flags at all Town facilities were lowered to half-mast, and a moment of silence was held to honour the survivors, the many children who never made it home, and all who continue to be impacted by former Indian Residential and Day schools.

All flags will be raised to full-mast on October 1st, and the Every Child Matters Flag will continue to fly at the Municipal Office until October 22, 2021.

All residents are encouraged to visit the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation website (www.nctr.ca) for further learning and education and to continue truth and reconciliation efforts.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

September 30, 2021 marks the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Canada. The day honours the lost children and Survivors of residential schools, their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process.

Orange Shirt Day

Orange Shirt Day, held annually on September 30, is an Indigenous-led commemorative day that honours the children who survived Indian Residential Schools and remembers those who did not. This day relates to the experience of Phyllis Webstad, a Northern Secwepemc (Shuswap) from the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation. When arriving for her first day of school wearing a new orange shirt, the shirt was taken away from her, and is now a symbol of the stripping away of culture, freedom and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children over generations.



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