

UBC Applied Science

IN RECOGNITION OF ORANGE SHIRT DAY

HONOURING EXPERIENCES. CELEBRATING RESILIENCE.

every child matters

#ORANGESHIRTDAY

SEPTEMBER 30

12PM - 1 PM

START: IRSHDC AMPHITHEATER

September 30 is an annual day to recognize and raise awareness about the residential school system in Canada, join together in the spirit of reconciliation, and honour the experiences of Indigenous Peoples.

WALK AND LEARN TOGETHER.

Start at the Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre, walk to the Reconciliation Pole and end at the Engineering Cairn.

irshdc.ubc.ca/orangeshirtday



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre

Every Child Matters. In recognition of the upcoming Orange Shirt Day which raises awareness of the legacy of Indian residential schools in Canada, UBC Applied Sciences is planning an event that will lead participants from the Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre to the Reconciliation Pole and will finish at the Engineering cairn. The history of Indian residential schools will be discussed as we walk this short route. The cairn is the symbol of UBC engineering and will be painted orange for the occasion. Participants are encouraged to add messages to the cairn that honour the experiences and resilience of Canada's Indigenous Peoples. We will be joined by a class of Grade 5 children to remind us that the survivors of this aggressive assimilation policy were once innocent and pure. Orange Shirt Day is an opportunity to combine classroom activities with an active display of recognition and respect for survivors of this shameful period in our shared history. The painting activity is sure to engage the creative kids in all of us, and bannock will be served before we commence the walk.

The Story Behind Orange Shirt Day

“I went to the Mission for one year. I had just turned 6 years old. We never had very much money, and there was no welfare, but somehow my granny managed to buy me a new outfit to go to the Mission School in. I remember going to Robinson’s store and picking out a shiny orange shirt. It had eyelets and lace, and I felt so pretty in that shirt and excited to be going to school! Of course, when I got to the Mission, they stripped me, and took away my clothes, including the orange shirt. I never saw it again, except on other kids. I didn’t understand why they wouldn’t give it back to me, it was mine! Since then the colour orange has always reminded me of that and how my feelings didn’t matter, how no one cared and how I felt like I was worth nothing. I finally get it, that the feeling of worthlessness and insignificance, ingrained in me from my first day at the mission, affected the way I lived my life for many years...I want my orange shirt back!”

Phyllis (Jack) Webstad, Dog Creek, BC

