

“I wear an orange shirt because...”

The annual Orange Shirt Day on September 30 opens the door to conversation on all aspects of Residential Schools. It is an opportunity to create meaningful discussions about the effects of Residential Schools and the legacy they have left behind. The events were designed to commemorate the residential school experience, to witness and honour the healing journey of the survivors and their families and to commit to the ongoing process of reconciliation. We invite you to contribute your reasons for wearing an orange shirt on this day.

ONTARIO TECH STUDENT LIFE AUG 27, 2020 11:26AM

I wear an orange shirt because...

... as an educator, I believe it is my responsibility to ensure that the horrors of the residential school system are never repeated. All educators, despite their best intentions, are working in a system that has been strategically designed to force assimilation, thus upholding said system. Even if the action we take is small, we all need to do something to change the education system from the inside out, and build a system that honours values of equity, inclusion and justice.

I wear an orange shirt because...

I am shocked that I did not know about residential schools until coming to university. I believe that we need more discussions around the impact of residential schools in Indigenous communities. Wearing an orange shirt is just one way to raise awareness -- there are many more things we can do.

I wear an orange shirt because ...

I want to show my empathy to all indigenous children who were taken away from their loving and caring family. I want to show my respect and admiration to the courage of Shoolee and her classmates (those who survived and those who did not). Because saying wholeheartedly that cultural genocide and child mistreatment were not OK and will never be OK is a first step towards reconciliation.

I wear an orange shirt because ...

The closure of the last residential school in 1996 did not mark the end of Canada's journey towards reconciliation. I wear orange to signify my participation in raising awareness of the injustices that have occurred and are continuing to occur. There is more work to be done and awareness to be raised. Every child matters.



I wear an orange shirt because...

I want to remember the children who were forcibly removed from their parents, their homes and their culture; their stories need to be heard again and again. And I want to thank the brave survivors who are doing the hard work of telling those stories so that we never forget that every child matters.



I wear an orange shirt because

I want to honour and show my support for Indigenous lives and traditions. I also celebrate survivors of residential schools and acknowledge the impact that residential schools have had on Indigenous families as well as future generations.

I wear an orange shirt because...

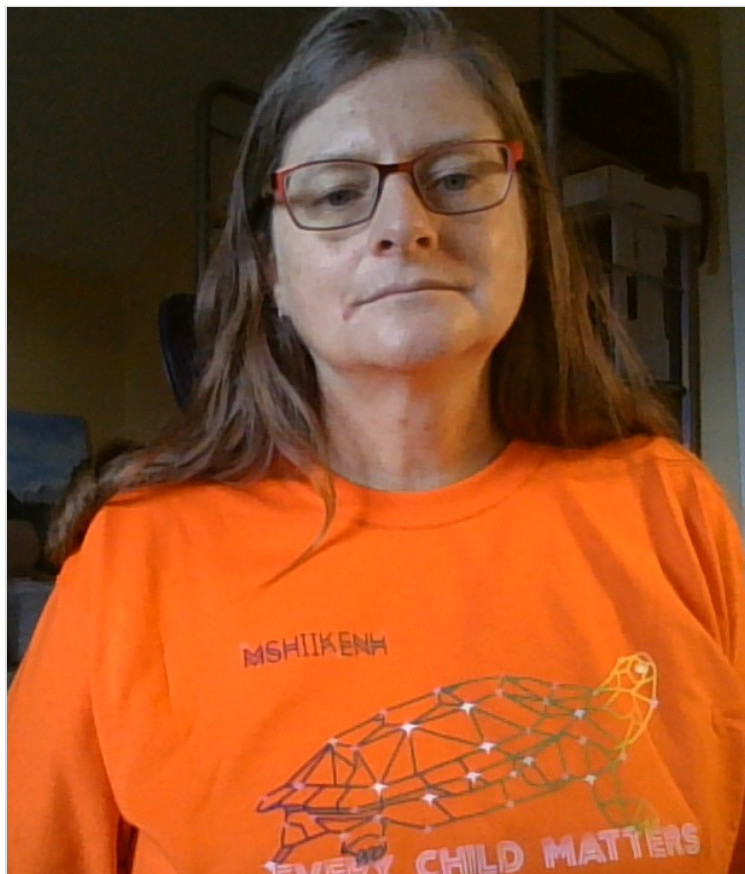
I wear an orange shirt because I recognize the long-lasting impacts caused by residential schools and want to bring awareness to this injustice.

I wear an orange shirt because...

I want to continue my education about the injustices that the Indigenous community have faced and are continuing to face in Canada's colonial system, so that I am aware of my privilege as a settler and so that I can advocate for those who need support.

I wear an orange shirt because ...

We need to remember and recognize the suffering of the children as a result of Canada's racist past ... and present.



I wear an orange shirt because...

I want to celebrate the lives of those who were taken from us too soon and those we have the honor of still having. I want to show that the conversation is still happening and changes still need to be made.

I wear an orange shirt because...

I want to live in a world that does not shame culture, race, language or any aspect of our identity.



I wear a orange shirt because...

I want to show that I stand in solidarity with the indigenous community. To spread awareness in a message of caring. Simply

stated, I wear an orange shirt because I know that every child matters.

I wear an orange shirt to...

Remember all the victims and survivors that had to suffer from the discrimination and injustices that look place in residential schools. Today, I stand in solidarity with these individuals and remember everything they had to endure within the residential school system.

I wear an orange shirt because...

I would like to honour the indigenous community and raise awareness about the struggles faced by those that were placed into residential schools and scarred by tragic events and horrific treatment that they cannot forget. I stand by you always.

I wear an orange shirt because I want to never forget my fellow Anishnaabe who endured this horrific time in their lives. Always remember.

I wear an orange shirt because ...

I want to honour those who were placed into residential schools and to bring awareness to everyone about the impact residential schools had on indigenous peoples. I wear the shirt to fight this injustice.

I wear an orange shirt because.....

I want to recognize all the children whom suffered or died in residential schools. I also want to spread awareness around reconciliation and stand up against racism

I wear an orange shirt because...

I wear an orange shirt because I want to raise awareness about and recognize all the children that lived, suffered, or died in residential schools.



I wear an orange shirt because...

I want to raise awareness and educate others about the residential school experience and the impact this has had on Indigenous communities in the past, and how it still affects them today. I want to honour those who have passed and those who survived the residential school system. I wear an orange shirt in spirit of truth, healing and reconciliation.

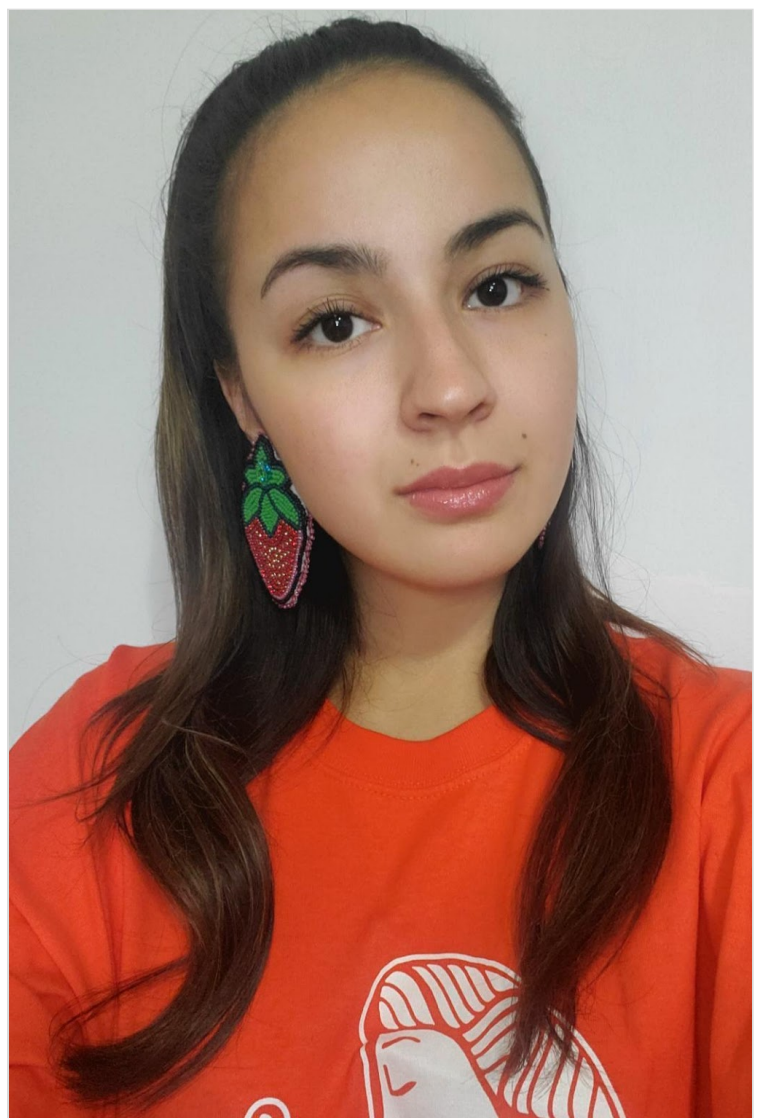
To honour Survivors

I wear an orange shirt to honour survivors of the Residential School System and to remember the beautiful lives lost.



Grandmother was a Residential School Survivor

I wear an orange shirt because I want to honour the Indian Residential School Survivors (IRSS) Legacy



a poem

you tore me down and left me broken,
but the blood that flows thru me
is all i needed to rise up
and fight for myself, my culture, my life

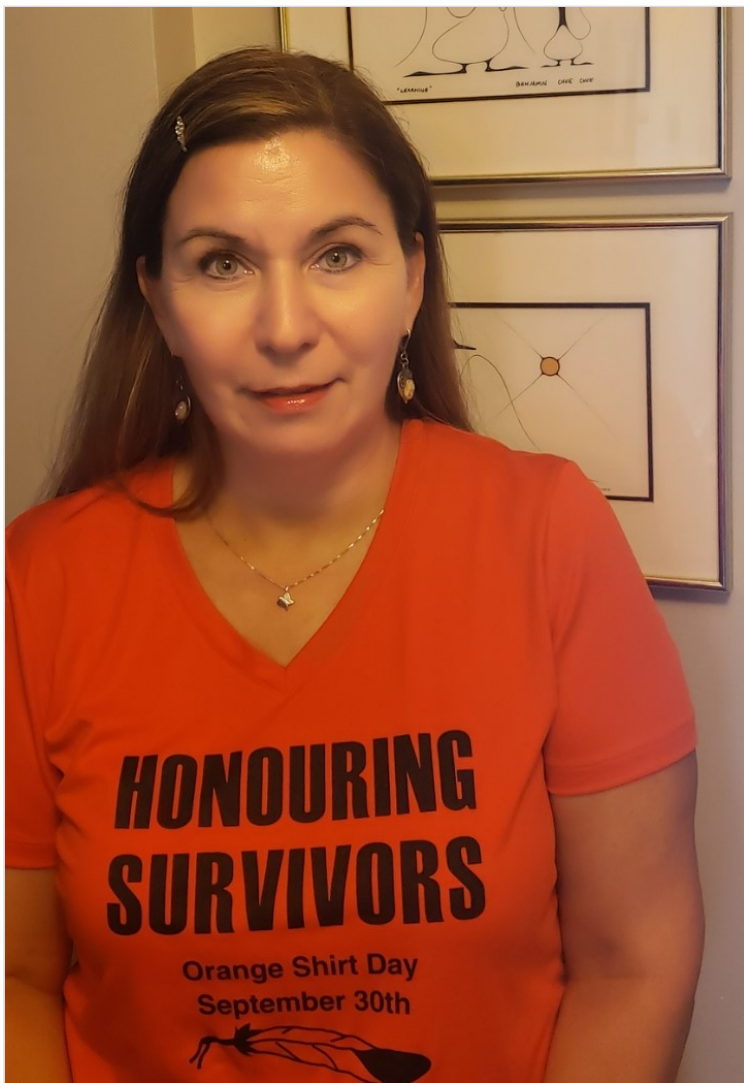


From Elder Tony, a Survivor

I wear an orange shirt so that my daughters don't have to fight systemic racism

"I wear an orange shirt because..."

I remember and honour my mother and children who were placed in residential schools, and also to remind Canadians that everyone knows someone impacted by the legacy of the Residential School System



I wear an orange shirt because I honour the strength and resilience of all residential school survivors.



Grandmother was placed in the Residential School System for 10 years

I want to honour all the survivors of the Residential School system-- those from the past, us in the present and those that are yet to come--and to never forget its legacy and enduring impacts on Indigenous peoples in Canada

I wear an orange shirt because...

I had no idea until 4 years ago that my grandmother's awful school experience wasn't an anomaly but was part of a deliberate and concerted effort by the Canadian government at that time to destroy Indigenous Peoples through the elimination of their cultures and rights. I wear an orange shirt so that the truth may be told.



I wear an orange shirt because...

I am a survivor of the Residential School



"I wear an orange shirt because..."

I wear an orange shirt because I want to honour the Indigenous children, who were sent away to residential school survivors and us in the present and also those that are yet to come. They don't have to fight systemic racism and bullying.

Grandmother was a Residential School Survivor



"I wear an orange shirt because..."

Although I did not feel the pain of the children at that time, I want to pay tribute to all those people who went through that bad time years ago.

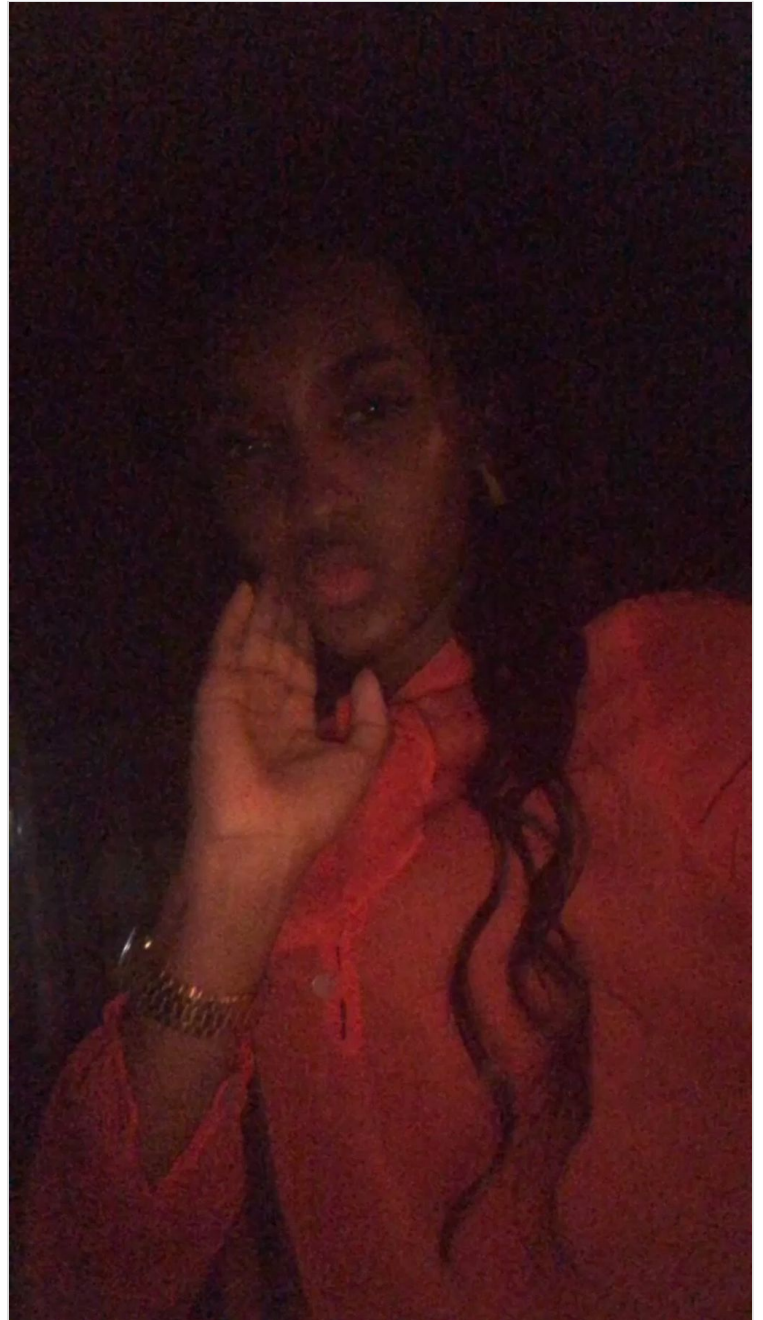
I wear an orange shirt because...

I want to educate as many people as possible about residential schools and the history of Canada. I never want people to forget those children who were there who did not survive, as well as those who did that carry that intergenerational trauma. Orange Shirt Day should be important to everyone. Wearing an orange shirt is an act of reconciliation and I hope that everyone recognizes that.

Jill Thompson
Indigenous Cultural Advisor

"I wear an orange shirt because... "

I wear an orange shirt because I want to honor and remember all the children that lived, suffered, or died in Residential School, and all the families that lost their kids.



I wear an orange shirt because...

I want that this day everyone remember the Indigenous children who lived in the Residential School. We need respected the children and your family.



I wear an orange shirt because

understanding the deliberate harms of the residential school system, and remembering and honouring the experiences of residential school survivors is the key to building new, respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. Remembering the past, not hiding it, is what allows us to build a future of justice, fairness and hope.

Rachel Ariss

Faculty Member, Co-chair President's Indigenous Reconciliation Task Force and Indigenous Education Advisory Circle
