

# Revelstoke Indigenous Education Learning and Equity



## Truth and Reconciliation Week

September 27<sup>th</sup> to October 1<sup>st</sup> has been identified as Truth and Reconciliation week which also includes the federal public holiday for Truth and Reconciliation Day on September 30<sup>th</sup>. 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. The creation of this federal statutory holiday was through legislative amendments made by Parliament on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.

## Reconciliation Week In our Schools

During the week each of our schools will provide a variety of activities to highlight the focus of the week including lowering our national flag to half mast, Smudging Ceremonies, Indigenous focused activities that connect students to the land and encouraging students to **wear ORANGE** on September 29<sup>th</sup>.



## Orange Shirt Day will be recognized September 29<sup>th</sup> in our schools.

Orange Shirt Day is an Indigenous-led grassroots commemorative day that honours the children who survived Indian Residential Schools and remembers those who did not. Phyllis Webstad, a Northern Secwepemc (Shuswap) from the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation, arrived on her first day of Residential school, in a new orange shirt. The shirt was taken from her and replaced with a school uniform. It is now a symbol of the stripping away of culture, freedom and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children over generations.

National Orange Shirt Day is recognized on September 30<sup>th</sup>. We encourage all Canadians to wear orange to raise awareness of the very tragic legacy of residential schools, and to honour the thousands of Survivors.

<https://www.orangeshirtday.org/phyllis-story.html>

## Every Child Matters

In recognition of Truth and Reconciliation, each of our schools will be raising an *Every Child Matters* flag this month. We will raise these flags to honour all Indigenous children who lost their lives in Residential schools. These flags were smudged with sweetgrass and sage to honour both the missing and Survivors of Residential schools. The tragic legacy of Residential schools began in Canada in 1831. Residential schools operated throughout Canada through to 1997. As you have been hearing, over 1000 unmarked graves have been found using ground-penetrating radar at only 6 of Canada's 139 Residential schools in the past month. While this news was shocking to many Canadians, it was no surprise to anyone who was paying attention to the findings of the 2015 Truth and Reconciliation report. If you have not seen the 94 calls to action, you are encouraged to become aware. At school we are encouraging age-appropriate dialogue to help us understand the role each of us play in reconciliation. Raising the "Every Child Matters" flag in our schools will provide a visual starting point for that work this school year.



Well known Ktunaxa artist Carol Louie provided the art for the feather and ideas for the design. Robert Louie (Ktunaxa) and Denice Louie (Athabaskan) completed the design work in collaboration with their summer youth worker Gabe Kobasiuk (Cree). Robert Louie is a residential school survivor. Most of his siblings also went to residential school. "The heart with the broken lines was used to show how the residential school affected our people, our connections, our teachings. Though fractured, the hearts of our people continue and remain strong. And in all of our hearts, at the center of our communities are

*the little ones, our future – represented by the child's hand. The eagle feather honours and recognizes all the children who were forced into residential school."*

### Secondary and Elementary Indigenous Education Learning and Equity programs

The School District 19 Indigenous Education program provides supports to all students to connect them with Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Learning, and specifically supports students who self-identify to achieve their goals and help connect them with Indigenous culture and identity.

Supports are provided in a variety of ways and may include:

- Social, Emotional, & Academic support
- Cultural Enrichment
- Elder knowledge sharing
- Local Indigenous Language
- Small group and mentorship opportunities
- Home-School Liaison
- Independent Study Programs
- Cultural speakers and artists
- Career and transition planning
- Scholarship and bursary information



### Indigenous Self -Identification

If your child would like to access personalized supports and the invitation to participate in programs and activities that will assist them to connect them with their Indigenous belonging, culture, and identity, please contact [Marlene Krug](#), Elementary Support worker, [Lisa Moore](#), Secondary Support worker, your school, school principal, or [Todd Hicks, District Principal of Indigenous Education](#).

For information on our *Equity Action Plan* to support success for Indigenous Learners please visit the [Parent/Indigenous Education](#) tab on our website: [www.sd19.bc.ca](http://www.sd19.bc.ca)

