

# Indigenous Education Pedagogical Considerations: Orange Shirt Day

## Consider & Acknowledge:

- Orange Shirt Day is everyone's history.
- The legacy of Residential schools is a present-day reality.
- Not recognizing the day serves to perpetuate erasure of truth.
- This should not be referred to as a day of celebration, it is a recognition of the historical and ongoing impacts of colonialism.
- Truth and Reconciliation week is a time to focus on reconciliation in action. Events such as spirit weeks and pep rallies may be best held at alternative times.



## Ask yourself:

- Do you know the history of Orange Shirt Day?
- Have you considered there may be students who identify as Indigenous in your class?
- What does your own learning look like? (review TRC calls to action, UNDRIP, read books, podcasts, First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Association of Ontario resources)
- Has your school shared communication with families letting them know classrooms will be discussing Orange Shirt Day at an age appropriate level?
- Are you prepared to listen and provide space for emotions and discussions within your classroom?
- Check in with the Indigenous Education department for support.



## How might your practice...

### Centre Indigenous Voices

- Amplify Indigenous achievements and contributions.
- Build relationships through knowing the treaty partner and supporting local communities.

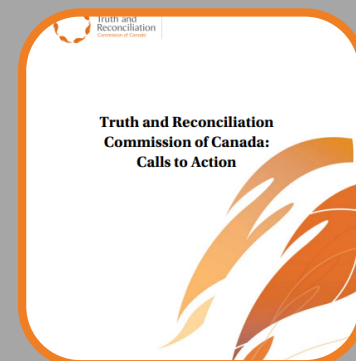
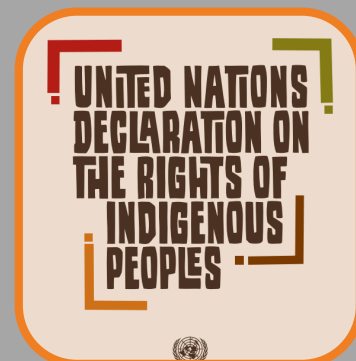
### Make Connections to Impacts of Colonialism

- Address the impact of loss of land, language and identity.
- Review how government policies are systematically designed to eliminate rights, terminate treaties and deny self-governance for Indigenous Nations.

### Balance the Narrative

- Make connections to UNDRIP.
- Research how Indigenous communities are actively defending the land.
- How are Indigenous languages being revitalized?

<https://sway.office.com/ZDUQ3BsPIG6gfMrv?ref=Link>



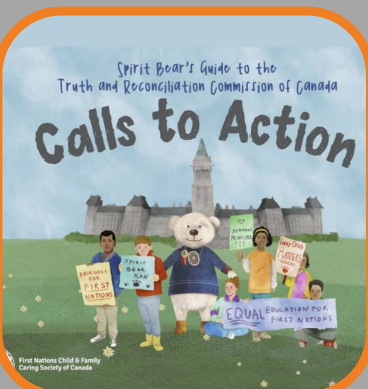
## What is your Commitment to Action?

**Calls to Action:** The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's 94 Calls to Action provide numerous ways Indigenous communities have shared about how reconciliation can begin to take place. Take a look with your classroom and choose one that you can focus on for the year. Calls to Action 62 and 63 are excellent starting points for classrooms to consider integrating Indigenous knowledges into classrooms.

## Taking Action: What can you do beyond September 30?

- Uplift Indigenous knowledge systems throughout the year through curriculum connections and building relationships with community.
- Continue your own learning and move towards engagement with others in conversations about Truth and Reconciliation.
- Donate and support local community initiatives such as *Geronimo's Dream*.
- Listen to Indigenous Peoples and acknowledge their lived experiences.
- Be responsive, call out and name colonial barriers in conversations, acknowledge your privilege.
- Commit to land and water protection, review your own use of land and how your classroom might research sustainable learning opportunities.

<https://www.bctf.ca/classroom-resources/details/beyond-september-30-doing-the-work>



## Resources:

- DPCDSB Truth and Reconciliation week events: [Elementary](#) - [Secondary](#)
- [Indigenous Education Department SharePoint](#)
- [First Nation, Metis and Inuit Education Association of Ontario](#)
- [Orange Shirt Day website resources](#)
- [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)