



The earliest recognized and longest running residential school was the Mohawk Institute aka 'Mush Hole' in Brantford, Ontario (1831 – 1962). The building still stands as a reminder.

The Woodlawn Cultural Centre, located next to the Institute will be holding their annual Survivors Gathering in late September.

Please check [woodlandculturalcentre.ca/event/survivors-gathering-2019](http://woodlandculturalcentre.ca/event/survivors-gathering-2019) for details. Supporters are encouraged to write words of healing and encouragement to Survivors in chalk along the walkway.

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Learn more by about the rich Indigenous culture by reaching out to your nearest Friendship

Centre. #



Dreams flash across the minds of many, terrifying, satisfying, unrelenting, but dreams pass and we find peace at last.  
Mae Evelyn Smith (Buswa) 1961

On behalf of the Employee Equity and Diversity Committee at CRA  
Thank you for your support .

# What is ORANGE SHIRT Day?

Orange Shirt Day is an opportunity for **First Nations**, local governments, schools and communities to come together **in the spirit of reconciliation and hope** for generations of children to come.

**SEPTEMBER 30**

The date was chosen because it is the time of year when children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming year.



It's 1973 and you are 6 years old. You are taken from your family to go live at school. That is what happened to Phyllis Webstad, a young girl that had her brand new ...orange shirt taken away from her when she arrived at residential school. That is how the orange shirt became the symbol for recognizing and honouring those who survived residential school and those who did not.

Ms. Webstad's story is the nucleus for what has become a national movement to recognize the experience of survivors of Indian residential schools, honour them, and show a collective commitment to ensure that every child matters. The initiative calls for every Canadian to wear an orange shirt on September 30 in the spirit of healing and reconciliation.



The federal government (under the mandate of the Department of Indian Affairs), played a key role in the development of residential schools. These schools operated for more than a century – with the first residential school established in the 1840's and the last residential school closing in 1996.

Residential schools were mandatory for all Aboriginal children. The assumption at the time was that the Aboriginal cultures and spiritual beliefs were inferior and unequal. Some even sought, as it has been infamously said, “to kill the Indian in the child.”

They operated in every province and territory (except Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island) and separated over 150,000 Aboriginal children from their families and communities.

Under this school system, children between the ages of 5 to 16 years old, were forcibly removed from their homes (by police officers, priests, and agents of Indian Affairs). Often they were placed far away, isolated from their families, communities, traditions and cultures.



**Thomas Moore before and after his entrance into the Regina Indian Residential School in Saskatchewan 1874.**

Sadly, Canadians are only just learning the details of this brutal and horrifying part of Canada's history. Astonishing as that is, what is equally astonishing, and what needs to be recognized and celebrated, is the resilience and bravery of the survivors and their families. Survivors are turning to their cultural roots, reviving traditions, languages, and finding strength in family and community to heal. This resiliency is what needs to be supported and celebrated because this is the path to reconciliation and a better future for all Canadians.