

## **The Algonquins of Ontario on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**

On Sept. 30, the Algonquins of Ontario Office will be closed to mark the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

The Algonquins of Ontario are on a journey of survival, rebuilding and self-sufficiency – a journey of reconciliation.

Reconciliation is the process of healing relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians, which requires public truth sharing, apology and commemoration that acknowledges and redresses past harms. Building meaningful partnerships with Indigenous communities, including Indigenous worldviews in our everyday actions, and recognizing Indigenous sovereignty are all ways we can commit to this ongoing process.

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation has been created to give everyone an opportunity to recognize and commemorate the legacy of residential schools, which more than 150,000 First Nations, Metis and Inuit children were forced to attend between the 1870s and 1997.

“The Algonquins of Pikwakanangan First Nation honour all the children who survived residential schools, and honour and recognize those who did not return as confirmed by the discoveries of unmarked grave sites at former residential school locations this year.”

Wendy Jocko Chief Algonquins of Pikwakanangan First Nation

The following links will help in understanding the impact the residential school system had on Indigenous communities as we move along our journey of reconciliation.

Here are a few activities you can take part in to further your learning and recognize the day:

- [Round Table of Algonquin Leaders on Truth and Reconciliation and Museums](#)

Monday, September 29, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The Bytown Museum is hosting a roundtable of Algonquin Leaders from Kitigan Zibi and the Algonquins of Pikwakanangan First Nation to discuss how Truth and Reconciliation intersects with the work of museums.

- [National Truth and Reconciliation Week](#)

Monday, September 27 to Friday, October 1. Presented by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, this full week of online programming will feature short videos created by Indigenous storytellers, followed by conversations with Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Survivors and the children of residential school survivors.

- [Remember Me: National Day of Remembrance](#)

Thursday, September 30, 10 am to 5 pm. A national gathering to remember Indigenous children and families impacted by residential schools, presented by the Indigenous Arts Collective of Canada. The day begins with opening ceremonies at Parliament Hill,

followed by a Spirit Walk to Confederation Park, concluding with music, art, presentations and installations.

- [National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day at Beechwood Cemetery](#)

Thursday, September 30, sunrise to sunset. The Beechwood Cemetery Foundation has partnered with the Project of Heart, Assembly of 7 Generations and the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society to host a public Day of Reconciliation educational program. The event includes a 45-minute Reconciling History tour, an outdoor screening of Spirit Bear and Children Make History, and public display of tiles created by youth across Canada to honour residential school survivors.

- [Indian Residential School Survivors Society \(irsss.ca\)](#) feel free to donate to the IRSSS.

It's a time to advance our reconciliation efforts to build a better future for everyone in our communities.



Members of the Algonquins of Pikwākanagān First Nation, located about 130 kilometres west of Ottawa, hold a candlelight vigil on the shores of Golden Lake on July 1 in remembrance of children who didn't make it home from residential schools. (PJ Leroux/Facebook)