

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session on Tuesday, September 24, 2024

1. National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Every year on September 30th, we observe the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day in the Burnaby School District. This day is deeply significant as it honours and remembers the children who never returned home and the Survivors of residential schools, along with their families and communities. It's a time for us to publicly acknowledge and remember the tragic and painful history, as well as the ongoing impacts of residential schools, which is a crucial part of the reconciliation process.

Orange Shirt Day is a grassroots initiative led by Indigenous communities. It aims to raise awareness about the inter-generational impacts of residential schools on individuals, families, and communities, and to emphasize that "Every Child Matters." The orange shirt symbolizes the loss of culture, freedom, and self-esteem that Indigenous children experienced over generations. On September 30th, we encourage everyone to wear orange to honour the thousands of Survivors of residential schools.

In our schools, we see many examples where non-Indigenous students and staff are taking the lead in this important work to honour Indigenous students and communities. This shared responsibility is incredibly impactful and meaningful, helping to move us forward together in the spirit of reconciliation. In the Burnaby School District, truth, reconciliation, and healing are present all week, with students and staff wearing orange leading up to the September 27th Orange Shirt Day assemblies and the September 30th National Day for Truth, Reconciliation, and reflection.

- **Date:** September 30th (National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day)
- **Lead-Up Activities:** Throughout the week leading up to September 30th, students and staff across the school wear orange, lead events and create interactive story boards to show their support and commitment to reconciliation.

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education receive this information.