



Brock University Graduate Students' Association National Day for Truth and Reconciliation 2022

September 30, 2022 – (St. Catharines, ON)

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is a federal holiday established to honour residential school survivors and recognize the Indigenous lives lost across Turtle Island (an Indigenous name used to reference America and/or Canada).

It is a day formerly known as Orange Shirt Day, created by Phyllis Webstad of Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation. The [orange shirt is a reflection of Phyllis' own orange shirt](#) that was taken from her as a six-year-old when she attended a residential school; her orange shirt was taken, along with her culture. The orange shirt is worn to raise awareness about the negative consequences of the residential school systems felt by Indigenous communities, like Phyllis' and the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation.

As Indigenous communities continue to combat the ongoing legacies of colonization, the GSA believes that it is the responsibility of settlers to learn about the [history of residential schools, the 60s scoop, missing and murdered indigenous women and girls \(MMIWG\)](#), as well as ongoing land reclamation and sovereignty efforts.

Earlier today, a [reflecting statement was released earlier today](#) by Interim President Dr. Lynn Wells and Acting Vice-Provost, Indigenous Engagement Dr. Robyn Bourgeois. We encourage all graduate students, members of the Brock community and those outside of our community to take time today to reflect on our country's relations with Indigenous Peoples and to consider what each of us can do to advance reconciliation meaningfully.

We also encourage you to take meaningful steps with us towards ending the legacies of colonization; to take actionable steps forward toward reconciliation. Here are some steps that we would encourage you to take, today and every day:

- Create space for Indigenous people to speak and share their perspectives and voices.
- Take time to learn about the histories of Indigenous peoples in Canada and reflect on actions taken by Canada towards these communities.
- Learn how to properly acknowledge the land you reside on and engage with tools like [Native Land's Interactive Map](#) to learn about traditional territories around you.
- Read the 94 Call to Action in the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Truth and Reconciliation Report](#) and identify your role in the work left to be done.
- Support Indigenous-owned businesses, artists, experiences, and events.
- Find ways to spread awareness by sharing resources and educating your friends, families, and communities.

For a starting place of resources and additional information, we would suggest exploring these links:

Brock-based:

[Brock Service] [Hadiya'dagéhahs First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Centre](#)

[Brock Webpage] [National Day for Truth and Reconciliation](#)



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[Brock News Article] [Events and Resources: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation](#)

[Brock Library Collection] [Reconciling the History of the Residential School System in Canada](#)

[Brock Workshop] [Indigenous Ways of Teaching and Learning](#) on October 22

External:

[Website] [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada](#)

[Interactive Map] [Native Land: Find out whose traditional territory you live on](#)

[Website] [ON Canada Project: Settlers Take Action](#)

[Course] Free 12-week [Indigenous Canada course from University of Alberta](#)

[Interactive Website] [CBC's Beyond 94: Truth and Reconciliation in Canada](#)

[Website] [35 Books to Read for National Indigenous History Month](#)