



Proclamation

September 30, 2023

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

Whereas, in June of 2021, the federal government passed a new legislation making September 30 a national statutory holiday to commemorate the tragic legacy of residential schools in Canada; and

Whereas, the establishment of a national holiday is in response to the 80th call to action in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action; and

Whereas, the date coincides with Orange Shirt Day, which began in 2013 has become a symbol of remembrance to honour Indigenous children forced to leave their families to attend residential schools; and

Whereas, the orange shirt symbol originated in the experience of Phyllis (Jack) Webstad of the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation, who shared her story of how her new orange shirt was taken away from her on her first day at St. Joseph Mission Residential School, leaving her with feelings of worthlessness and insignificance; and

Whereas, this day will provide a way for our community to publicly commemorate the history and legacy of residential schools and the resilience of residential school survivors, commemoration being a vital component of the reconciliation process; and

Whereas, Orangeville is a community that encourages and celebrates its cultural diversity;

Now therefore, I, Mayor Lisa Post, on behalf of Council, do hereby proclaim **September 30, 2023** as National Day of Truth and Reconciliation in the Town of Orangeville.

Lisa Post
Mayor