



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Faculty, Librarians, Staff, and Students, University of Toronto Scarborough  
**From:** Professor Katherine R. Larson, Vice-Dean Teaching, Learning & Undergraduate Programs  
Professor Jessica Fields, Vice-Dean Faculty Affairs, Equity & Success  
**Date:** 20 September 2022  
**Re:** Orange Shirt Day and Truth and Reconciliation Events - U of T Scarborough  
**Note:** For broad distribution

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Dear Students, Staff, Faculty, and Librarians:

We are writing to draw your attention to upcoming events at the University of Toronto Scarborough, related to Orange Shirt Day on **30 September**. Last year, this day was recognized for the first time as a federal statutory holiday, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

The story of the orange shirt began when Phyllis (Jack) Webstad was taken to residential school at the age of six. Her orange shirt was taken from her along with her hair, language, culture, community, and rights. Phyllis's story has grown into a [commemoration project](#) and gathering for residential school survivors.

For Indigenous members of our campus community and their families, **30 September** may be a particularly difficult day. We encourage students, faculty, librarians, and staff to take the time they need on this day. For faculty who are teaching, we encourage you to be flexible in your planning, particularly around scheduled assessments, both to support students' and your own accommodation needs, and to create space for reflection and learning.

While the University of Toronto will remain open, we encourage U of T Scarborough students, faculty, librarians, and staff to take time on this day to reflect and to consider individual and collective actions in response to the [94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#), the final report of the University of Toronto's steering committee, [Answering the Call: Wecheehetowin](#), and the recommended actions of the [UTSC Campus Curriculum Review Working Circle](#).

Several initiatives will take place at U of T Scarborough and the tri-campus University of Toronto in the days leading up to **30 September** to support learning, celebrate Indigenous excellence, and facilitate shared conversations in the spirit of reconciliation—including the importance of confronting difficult truths as the crucial first step in that process. Thanks to Indigenous Outreach Programming in the Office of Student Experience & Wellbeing; Indigenous Initiatives and the Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Office; the International Student Centre; the UTSC Library; the Department of Arts, Culture & Media; the Department of Sociology; and the Bridge for coordinating these opportunities. They include:



**Thursday, 22 September**

- Weekly Student-Led Beading Circle for Indigenous students, faculty, librarians, staff, and allies (beginners welcome). Drop-in on Thursdays from **5pm-7pm**, HL459

**Monday, 26 September**

- [Reconciliation Workshop: Walking the Talk](#) - 1pm-3pm

**Tuesday, 27 September**

- [Moccasin Project](#) - 6pm-8pm

**Wednesday, 28 September**

- [Indigenous Book Club](#) - 12pm-2pm
- [Exploring Drumming and Music as Home](#) - 6pm-7:30pm

**Thursday, 29 September**

- [screening of \*Rumble: the Indians Who Rocked the World\*](#) - 6pm-9pm

The UTSC Library has also prepared [a reading list related to Orange Shirt Day](#) as well as [Read Indigenous: Resources and Reading List](#).

Once again, this year the Office of the Vice-Principal Academic & Dean is partnering with the Department of Sociology, Information & Instructional Technology Services (IITS), and the Campus Farm to set up a livestream of the Indigenous Garden that will run from sunrise until sunset on **30 September** to enable reflection for members of the campus community. We will share a link to the livestream in the coming days; faculty who are teaching on that day are welcome to include it in their classes.

Also on **30 September**, the University of Toronto will be hosting **Andrew Wesley**, former Elder-in-Residence at First Nations House, for a [keynote address](#) (10am-11am) “Twelve Steps to Spiritual Renewal, Healing, and Forgiveness: Reflections on my Residential School Experience.” This event will be held in the Great Hall of Hart House; space is limited and registration is required; the address will also be livestreamed.

Please watch for further initiatives and opportunities for engagement in the coming days. We hope to see you there.

Warm wishes,

**Katherine R. Larson**

Vice-Dean Teaching, Learning & Undergraduate Programs

**Jessica Fields**

Vice-Dean Faculty Affairs, Equity & Success