

**Message from Education Minister Demetrios Nicolaides**

**Subject: Day for Truth and Reconciliation**

Dear education partners:

The Day for Truth and Reconciliation is coming up on Monday, September 30. On this day, we recognize and reflect upon the tragic history and ongoing impacts of residential schools, honouring survivors, their families, and communities.

Alberta Education acknowledges the significance of this day and its alignment with Orange Shirt Day, an Indigenous-led grassroots movement that recognizes the ongoing intergenerational effects of residential schools and carries a very important message: "Every Child Matters."

Alberta's government is committed to walking the path of truth and reconciliation together with Indigenous Peoples. In doing this, we must build an understanding of the truth of our shared history. Truth and reconciliation initiatives in schools and communities provide opportunities for Albertans to learn this shared history and understand how we can come together to offer a better future for all.

Throughout this month, I encourage Albertans to support local and national truth and reconciliation activities, some of which can be found on [Alberta.ca](https://alberta.ca).

Alberta Education is providing funding for resources and events offered by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. This organization offers free, pre-recorded online content for teachers, students, and school leaders, as well as opportunities to participate in live virtual events throughout Truth and Reconciliation Week. Please check the [website](#) for registration details, schedules, and more information.

I also encourage Albertans to visit the [Education for reconciliation](#) web page to view initiatives that support truth and reconciliation throughout the year by including First Nations, Métis, and Inuit perspectives and experiences throughout Alberta's education system. The Day for Truth and Reconciliation is recognized by the Alberta Protocol Office as a half-mast day. Schools in Alberta may also lower flags to half-mast from sunrise until sunset in recognition.

Thank you in advance for sharing this important information with your school communities. I look forward to hearing how schools across the province choose to recognize this significant day. Through education, we can advance truth and reconciliation and move toward a better future for all.

Best,  
Demetrios Nicolaides ECA PhD  
Minister of Education