



CANADIAN
PARENTS
FOR FRENCH

30

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National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

To mark the **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation** on September 30, 2022, **Canadian Parents for French** encourages its members and their families to wear orange to recognize and commemorate the tragic history and ongoing legacy of residential schools, and to honour their survivors, their families, and Indigenous communities (First Nations, Métis, and Inuit) across Canada.

Why wear orange?

Read about the **History of Orange Shirt Day**, which explains the origin of wearing orange on September 30, at: <https://www.orangeshirtday.org/phyllis-story.html>

1 Activities to do as a family

The following are a few suggestions for activities that you can do as a family to learn together about the reality that Indigenous peoples and their children faced for generations.

Read and learn new words

In 2022, the **National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR)** offers a comprehensive, free program as part of the **Truth and Reconciliation Week**, which you can access at: <https://nctr.ca/education-fr/la-semaine-de-la-verite-et-reconciliation/?lang=en>, ages 4 to 18.

Quoi Lire.ca (https://quoilire.ca/liste_litterature_jeunesse_autochtone.php) recommends a list of 34 age-appropriate youth books in French on Indigenous themes, including a short summary of each, such as: **Je suis Corbeau: un récit de découvertes**, by David Bouchard, ages 6 to 8, **Les autochtones d'Amérique du Nord**, by S. N. Paleja, ages 9 to 11, **Les mots qu'il me reste: Violette Pesheens, pensionnaire à l'école résidentielle**, by Ruby Slipperjack, ages 12 to 17.

The **Val d'Or Native Friendship Centre** has created a document presenting the names of the animals of the 11 nations in Quebec in the Algonquin language (Anishinaabe). See the presentation and learn new words as a family at: https://cpfca-my.sharepoint.com/p:g/personal/aforget_cpf_ca/EabCoQLV78BBRBoyjd93qKkBR7bOdqONoyirhH30D2sQwQ?rttime=e_Pu5aWc2kg, ages 4 to 10.

2 Videos to watch

Watch the video **L'histoire canadienne et le système des pensionnats** produced by the **Orange Shirt Society** (27 min), which provides a chronological portrait of Canadian history and the residential school system. The presentation, by Phyllis Webstad, is in English (with French subtitles), but the video is in French. Viewing <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oEwY5EQScNM> is recommended for children ages 12 and up.

Go to <https://www.onf.ca/chaines/les-pensionnats-autochtones> to view videos in French (or with French subtitles) produced by the **National Film Board of Canada**. Videos include **Retour à Holy Angels** <https://www.onf.ca/film/retour-a-holy-angels> and **Des histoires ancrées en nous** <https://www.onf.ca/film/histoires-ancrees-en-nous-des>, ages 10 and up.

Mikana, meaning **road** in the Anishinaabe language, is an Indigenous non-profit organization that works toward social change by educating various audiences about the realities and perspectives of Indigenous peoples. This initiative is the result of a reflection on what concrete action might be taken against racism and discrimination toward Indigenous people and helps break down barriers between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous worlds. Watch **Where are your feathers? / Où sont tes plumes?** at <https://www.mikana.ca/en/ressources>, ages 12 and up.

Watch the video **Cheval indien** (2018, French version of **Indian Horse**), produced by Clint Eastwood at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ma4V6DV2UFk>, based on the book (2017) of the same title written by Richard Wagamase, ages 14 and up.

Activities – Games – Colouring Pages

The guide **Célébrons les peuples autochtones du Canada / Celebrating Indigenous Peoples in Canada**, produced for the **National Indigenous Peoples Day** (June 21), contains many informative texts and questions to answer, various games, stories, mystery messages and tales. For example, try the activity **Le canard/Crunchers** (ages 8 and up) and **La cuisine à la mode autochtone / Cooking Indigenous Style**, where you can prepare a **Coureur des bois casserole** or **Bannock frit / Fried Bread**. https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-CIRNAC-RCAANC/DAM-PPLCOM/STAGING/texte-text/nIPD_activity_guide_2018_1528380426091_eng.pdf, all ages, accompanied by an adult.

The **National Arts Centre Indigenous Theatre** has created colouring pages that represent Indigenous words from across Turtle Island. They were prepared by Indigenous artists from the regions where these languages are spoken. Have fun colouring the pages as a family at <https://nac-cna.ca/en/indigenoustheatre/colouring-pages>, (ages 4 and up).

The **Native Land Digital** website (and the application for IOS or Android) offers a variety of activities for teens (ages 12 to 16). Visit <https://native-land.ca/about/how-it-works> to learn how it works.

3 Give to charities that support Indigenous Peoples

This year, **Canadian Parents for French** gave to the **Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN)**, a non-profit organization, as part of its French-language programming surrounding the **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation** <https://www.aptn.ca>. If you are able, donate to support Canadian non-profit organizations that work with Indigenous communities in Canada, such as:

Mikana (Montreal, QC), which means **road** in the Anishinaabe language, is an Indigenous non profit organization that works toward social change by educating various audiences about the realities and perspectives of Indigenous communities. <https://www.zeffy.com/fr-CA/donation-form/5ccd9149-d308-45b1-8ff7-438b68e35440>

The **Nesika Cultural and Heritage Society** (Vancouver, BC), finds its roots in the historical newsletter of the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs. Like their namesake, they carry on the tradition of promoting communication and education on the principle that there is “power in knowledge” and “strength in unity”. <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/nesika-cultural-and-heritage-society>

Visit canadahelps.org for a complete list of these organizations:
<https://www.canadahelps.org/fr/explore/charities/category/indigenous-peoples>

4 Museum to discover

The **Canadian Museum for Human Rights** in Manitoba offers a virtual visit entitled **Where are the children? Healing the impacts of Residential Schools / Où sont les enfants ? Guérir les impacts des pensionnats**. It would be best for an adult to accompany children under the age of 12 during the virtual visit. <https://legacyofhope.ca/wherearethekids>

5 Discover other ways of learning on the road to reconciliation

Many Indigenous youth use social networks such as Instagram, TikTok, or Twitter to share with each other and to raise public awareness about topics such as the tragic history of residential schools and the effects they still have on later generations. For example, **James Jones (@notoriouscree)** started a new TikTok phenomenon of emerging creators of Indigenous content. In July 2020, the magazine *Vogue* even became interested in this positive trend of videos from this Cree individual from Northern Alberta. **Sandra-Lyne Michel (@sandralinemichel)** and **Jonathan Vollant (@jonathanvollant)**, two Innu influencers are two more examples of Indigenous youth who have turned to social media to make people laugh and to reflect on Indigenous realities (16 and over).



Canadian Parents for French is a cross-Canada network that stands firmly for “FSL for All” and has led an internal reflection about what it means to be an inclusive and equitable organization. We are learning more about systemic bias and barriers as well as the areas where we need to grow. We are committed to being better than yesterday through our voices and actions. We aspire to be an organization that is inclusive of all Canadians and so, we take the opportunity that September 30th affords to recognize the legacy of residential schools as well as our responsibility, individually and collectively, to find ways to implement the TRC Calls to Actions and honour the notion that **Every Child Matters!**