



30

September | septembre

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Journée nationale de la vérité et de la réconciliation

In honour of the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Canadian Parents for French is encouraging our 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 communities.

Here are a few ways we can recognize this day with our families, educating ourselves on residential schools and Indigenous history with the goals of learning more about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's **94 Calls to Action** (organized into categories on this site).

1 Learn words, read books and view documentaries.

The **Indigenous Theatre of the National Arts Centre** has created beautiful trilingual colouring pages featuring words from four different languages. <https://nac-cna.ca/fr/indigenoustheatre/colouring-pages>

Radio-Canada has recommended a list of 10 French books, appropriate by age. Titles include: *Quand on était seuls*, by David Alexander Robertson and *Quand j'avais huit ans*, by Christy Jordan-Fenton et Margaret Pokiak-Fenton. <https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1698011/livres-jeunesse-autochtone-litterature>

Canadian Parents for French has purchased copies of the French version of Cindy Blackstock's story book, *Spirit Bear: Rendre hommage aux souvenirs, semer des rêves* for each Branch to distribute to interested Chapters.

The **National Film Board of Canada** offers many French films under the section, pensionnats autochtones. To view the list: <https://www.onf.ca/chaines/les-pensionnats-autochtones>

2 Donate to Indigenous charities. Support Indigenous artists, business owners, journalists, and community organizers.



This year, **Canadian Parents for French** has made a donation to **First Nations Child and Family Caring Society (FNCFC) of Canada** that works to ensure the safety and well-being of First Nations youth and their families through education initiatives, public policy campaigns and providing quality resources to support communities. Visit their website, to read: [7 façons gratuites, faire une différence](#)



PROJECT OF HEART

Project of Heart, <https://projectofheart.ca>, was started by students in 2007 who were shocked with what they were learning in their history class. With the help of their teacher, concerned community members, and IRS Survivors, it became a collaborative, inter-generational artistic journey of seeking truth about the history of Aboriginal people in Canada. Learn more about the Virtual Heart Garden, Remembering the Children.



The Assembly of 7 Generations, <https://www.a7g.ca>, is an Indigenous-owned and youth-led, non-profit organization focused on cultural support and empowerment programs and policies for Indigenous youth while being led by traditional knowledge and Elder guidance.

3 Visit museums and historical sites to gain a better understanding of the diversity and history of the First Peoples, Inuit and Métis.

The **Canadian Museum of History** has the Grand Hall and First Peoples Hall and presents several exhibitions yearly in both official languages that pay homage and bring awareness to the tragic history of residential schools in Canada. To view the virtual exhibits available in French: <https://www.museedelhistoire.ca>



Beechwood Cemetery, known as Canada's National Cemetery, provides a unique context to tell Canada's history with the First Peoples. It is the final resting place for several prominent Canadians who established the residential school system such as Nicholas Flood Davin, author of the 1879 Davin Report. It is also the final resting place of **Peter Henderson Bryce**, the individual who first sounded the alarm – in 1907 – on the horrendous conditions at residential schools for Indigenous children in Western Canada. Bryce wrote a scathing report as chief medical officer for what was then called the Department of Indian Affairs. The report was suppressed, the recommendations ignored and eventually Bryce was forced into retirement. His report resurfaced

during the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada conducted between 2008 and 2015. His grave features a modest headstone, commemorative plaque, and a small tidy garden of sweetgrass featuring colourful pinwheels.

As well, one can visit a final tribute to Métis historian and journalist, **Olive Patricia Dickason**, for her valuable contributions to the study and documentation of Indigenous history in Canada.

4 Discover new ways to learn about the path to reconciliation.

There are plenty of resources available online to learn about reconciliation initiatives. This app **“Reconciliation: A Starting Point” (La réconciliation : un point de départ)** is available in English and French. The content of the app was created and compiled by the Canada School of Public Service. It is a reference tool for learning about Indigenous peoples, why reconciliation matters and what Public servants can do to advance it.

Besides traditional learning resources, many Indigenous youth are raising awareness through social media. We invite you to explore Instagram, TikTok and other social media channels to learn about these issues through the voice of Indigenous youth. Let's amplify their voice by sharing their content.



Canadian Parents for French is a strong cross-Canada network that stands firmly for “FSL for All”. The past 18 months have provided time for inward 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 commit to be 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**.