



## Indigenous Arts Collective of Canada

[www.passthefeather.org](http://www.passthefeather.org) | [www.remember-me-september-30.org](http://www.remember-me-september-30.org) | [www.IndigenARTSY.com](http://www.IndigenARTSY.com)  
An Indigenous Women Led, Not-for-profit Organization under the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act #946986-9. Designated a National Arts Services Organization by Department of Canadian Heritage.

*Empowering Indigenous women by promoting the transfer and conservation of cultural knowledge; securing the capacity for the next 7 generations to retain and cultivate intrinsic cultural connections.*

### Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
AUGUST 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2021

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### **Remember Me: National Day of Remembrance**

Memorialize the dead and support the survivors, families and communities affected by Indian residential schools and all Indigenous child apprehension and assimilation programs.

**September 30th: ELEVATE Orange Shirt Day** and preserve national access to meaningful education regarding the history of Indigenous people and Indian schools.

**All welcome; community event. ADVOCATE. MOTIVATE. EDUCATE. ELEVATE.**

OTTAWA, Ontario - Indigenous people are experiencing devastating trauma connected to the recent exposure of unmarked graves. To date, over 1500 missing Indigenous children have finally been located in unmarked graves near numerous Indian residential school sites. Indigenous people are bracing for more waves of grief as thousands more graves are marked to be revealed, unearthed and repatriated; they will be walked home and it will be devastating.

**Remember Me: National Day of Remembrance** also coincides with the federal government's decision to establish a statutory holiday on **September 30<sup>th</sup>**. Indigenous people require that September 30<sup>th</sup> be preserved as a national day of remembrance with ceremony, awareness and education. Not unlike November 11<sup>th</sup>, we will facilitate a national acknowledgment of devastating loss of life with protocols and respect the priority. Those that have suffered illness, abuse and death at the hands of church and state will be remembered and memorialized. It is imperative that schools meaningfully teach this tragic legacy; this annual day of remembrance is essential to accuracy in curriculum.

Dawn Iestoseranónnha, president and founder of the IACC expresses, "We always knew they were buried there but no one would listen; our secret kept safe from Canadians." She explains, "**Remember Me: A National Day of Remembrance**' Ottawa initiative was birthed the day that 215 missing Indigenous children were finally located at the Kamloops Residential School in British Columbia. It is also the day that the press released the government's intentions to fast track the establishment of **September 30<sup>th</sup>** as a statutory holiday. The latter appears to come from good intentions but has created an end of summer day off for federal employees only. We intend to elevate the educational components of **Orange Shirt Day** that was established in schools across the nation over 5 years ago."

On **September 30<sup>th</sup>**, Indigenous women and their families will gather on Parliament Hill. The day will reflect our virtues, spirituality and protocols as Indigenous people and will clearly establish our connection to each other and cumulative strengths when united. With peace as our path and love the fuel for the journey, we invite Canadians to join us and open themselves to advocating for health, education, equality, unity, compassion for the suffering of Indigenous grandmothers, mothers, children and communities and above all, the sacredness of motherhood and childhood.

**Parliament Hill** Reflection and [re]Connection.

9am-noon Opening Ceremonies with Elders and Singers.

Drumming the Children's Heartbeats - Honoring their Spirits.

**Spirit Walk** Spirit Walk to Confederation Park led by Indigenous Grandmothers & Daughters.

noon **Orange shirts, ribbon skirts, moccasins and feathers, women and the spirits of the children, all walking together.** (500m / 7 minute walk).

**Confederation Park** Traditional foods, presentations, music, ceremony, art installations and demonstrations.

noon-5pm An afternoon of education, arts and community.