



# News Release

## **RDCRS schools recognize Orange Shirt Day/National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**

***For immediate release – September 27, 2024***

As we approach National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Monday, Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools remains committed to fostering understanding, reflection, and reconciliation in our school communities. Each school has been empowered to work within their local community to create meaningful and unique programs to guide them through Orange Shirt Day, which is being recognized in RDCRS schools today.

All Central Office staff at Montfort Centre were also given the opportunity to take part in a professional development session to discuss the truth of residential schools and opportunities for everyone to move reconciliation efforts into reconciliACTION.

"The recognition of the intergenerational harm that residential schools inflicted, and to honour all those that have been impacted by this injustice, remains a critical part of the reconciliation path in our school communities. Each of our schools works to develop a program that resonates within their own community. This is part of our ongoing commitment to reconciliation and fostering understanding across our division," said Ryan Sawula, Associate Superintendent of Curriculum and Inclusion.

"Our goal is to create spaces where the voices of Indigenous peoples are heard and respected. The opportunity for each school to tailor its programming ensures that the day is not just a commemoration, but a learning experience rooted in the history, culture, and experiences of Indigenous peoples. This is an important step toward fostering reconciliation and ensuring that the legacy of residential schools is understood by all," said Jonathan Mauro, Indigenous Education Coordinator, highlighting the importance of collaboration and inclusivity.

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Each of the division's schools has embraced this opportunity to reflect on Canada's history and honor the survivors, their families, and the countless Indigenous children who never returned home. As we move forward, we continue to learn, listen, and walk together on the path toward reconciliation.

*Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools serves over 9,600 students in 21 schools in Red Deer, Blackfalds, Sylvan Lake, Rocky Mountain House, Innisfail, and Olds. It also supports the learning of over 950 students in a Home Education Program. The Division is committed to serving children and parents with a complete offering of learning opportunities delivered within the context of Catholic teachings and within the means of the Division.*

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