



School District #8 Kootenay Lake Acknowledges Reconciliation Week 2025

SD8 Kootenay Lake is committed to the shared journey of Reconciliation. The hope for this week is a full district, full classroom engagement and learning on the topic of Reconciliation, to fully honour the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, Residential School Survivors, and those children who did not return home. Below is a starting point to be shared with all staff in the district, with compiled resources to support this important week.

Reconciliation Week will run 22 - 26 September, and all schools will participate in school assemblies on 29 September to honour National Day for Truth & Reconciliation.

The National Centre for Truth & Reconciliation is offering a number of virtual teachings during this week, for educators. [Please find information here.](#)

Daily announcement sample topics with a focus on Aboriginal history, land, culture, and brilliance:

- Local language greetings: [First Voices](#)
- Student voice: writing, reflections, learning, videos, speech
- Highlighting an [Indigenous musician](#)
- Why do we do a territory acknowledgement?
- Fun fact quiz - could be a contest with student designed questions?
- [ERASE site](#) - information

September 29 - All Schools Assemblies

Sample Assembly Agenda: (20-30 minutes)

1. Territory Acknowledgement (2 minutes)
2. Principal reflection / leadership on Reconciliation (5 minutes)
3. Student voice: students share learning, writing, reflections X 2-3 students (5-6 minutes)
4. Slideshow: highlighting Orange Shirt Day - see resources below (6 minutes)
5. Ticket out the door: Write an act of reconciliation you've taken on an [Orange Shirt template](#)

Options: Elder speaker, Elder welcome, ABED song with students and ABED staff



Reconciliation Week 2025 in SD8 Kootenay Lake

Resources

National Centre for Truth & Reconciliation - [Reconciliation Week activities 2025](#)

[Orange Shirt Day Society](#) - Lesson plans, resources, videos, and activities for all grade levels

Orange Shirt Day Society - [Phyllis' Story](#)

Orange Shirt Day Society - [Histoire de la journée du chandail orange](#)

BCTF - [Orange Shirt Day Activities](#) (Lesson plans with curricular connections, resources, videos, and information for all grade levels)

National Film Board of Canada - [Films & Resources, Mini-Lessons](#)

National Film Board of Canada - [National Day for Truth & Reconciliation Films and Lessons](#)

National Film Board of Canada - [Indigenous Cinema](#)

FNESC - [Resources, lesson plans, courses](#)

National Centre for Truth & Reconciliation - [ReconciliACTION plans](#)

Gord Downie - [Secret Path](#)

National Centre for Truth & Reconciliation - [Reconciliation through Education](#)

The Witness Blanket - [An invitation to bear witness to Indian Residential Schools in Canada](#)

Picking up the Pieces - [The Making of the Witness Blanket](#) (film)

Monique Gray Smith on ["Why we need to learn"](#) (video)

Lesson Plans from BCTF Classroom Resources

- [215 Le Estcwiwéy: Honouring the Children buried at Kamloops Indian Residential School](#)
- [Gladys We Never Knew: The Life of a Child in a BC Indian Residential School](#)
- [Timeline History of Aboriginal Peoples in BC](#)
- [Beyond September 30: Doing the Work](#)

First Nations Caring Society - [Other ways to participate in Orange Shirt Day](#) (scroll to last item)

Creative Classroom Core - [Ideas for Orange Shirt Day](#)

Teacher Pay Teachers - [Orange Shirt Day and Reconciliation lessons and resources](#)



Reconciliation Week 2025 in SD8 Kootenay Lake

CBC Kids - [What is Orange Shirt Day?](#)

AHS - [Acts of Reconciliation You Can Do With Your Child](#)

Historica Canada - [Timeline of Residential Schools in Canada](#)

Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada - [History of Residential Schools](#)

Boldprint Inquiry - [Indigenous Packages](#) (resources for primary)

Outdoor Learning School & Store - [Resources & Learning Opportunities](#)



SD8 AB ED District Resources: Residential School Resources

These resources are available from the Ab Ed Resource Library. Please contact District Aboriginal Team to borrow: jesse.halton@sd8.bc.ca

Kits:

100 Years of Loss

Intermediate/Secondary Books:

As Long as the Rivers Flow by Larry Loyie (x2)

A Stranger At Home: A True Story by Christy Jordan-Fenton and Margaret Pokiak-Fenton (x2)

Fatty Legs: A True Story by Christy Jordan-Fenton and Margaret Pokiak-Fenton (x2)

Goodbye Buffalo Boy by Larry Loyie

My Name is Seepeetza by Shirley Sterling (x2)

No Time to Say Goodbye by Sylvia Olsen

Righting Canada's Wrongs. Residential Schools: The Devastating Impact on Canada's Indigenous Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Findings and Calls for Action by Melanie Florence

Sugar Falls: A Residential School Story by David Alexander Robertson and Scott B. Henderson

They Called me Number One: Secrets and Survival at an Indian Residential School by Bev Sellars

Wenjack by Joseph Boyden

Primary Books:

I am Not a Number by Jenny Kay Dupuis and Kathy Kacer

Kookum's Red Shoes by Peter Eyvindson (x2)

Shi-shi-etko by Nicola I. Campbell (x2)

Shin-chi's Canoe by Nicola I. Campbell (x3)

When We Were Alone by David A Robertson and Julie Flett

When I Was Eight by Christy Jordan-Fenton and Margaret Pokiak-Fenton



Teaching Guides:

Untold History: Understanding the Impact of Indian Residential School on Canada's Aboriginal Peoples (A Teacher Resource for Grade 7) by Ilona Weiss

Resources for accessing help for health and wellness

[Indian Residential School Survivors Society](#) (IRSSS)
1-800-721-0066

[Hope for Wellness Help Line](#)
24/7 Mental health and crisis support for Indigenous Peoples across Canada
1-855-242-3310

[Kuu-Us Crisis Line Society](#)
Crisis Services for Indigenous People across BC.
1-800-638-4722