Dear URFA members,

In recognition of Orange Shirt Day, URFA joins other Unions, Indigenous communities, local governments, schools and communities by coming together in the spirit of reconciliation.

The annual Orange Shirt Day on September 30th commemorates the residential school experience and marks the ongoing commitment to the process of reconciliation. With September 30th falling on a Saturday this year, many individuals and organizations have chosen to mark the date on Friday September 29th.

In 2013, a commemoration event was held in Williams Lake, BC, to recognize the legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) residential school. It grew out of Phyllis Webstad’s story of having her shiny new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school at the Mission, and it has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually.

Orange Shirt Day is “an opportunity to create meaningful discussion about the effects of Residential Schools and the legacy they have left behind”. * It is also an opportunity to open dialogue around racism and bullying.

Please Join URFA and the broader university in remembering and honouring the individuals, families and communities that were so profoundly impacted by the residential school system here in Saskatchewan and across Canada.

*http://www.orangeshirtday.org/origin.html