URFA Supports Orange Shirt Day 2019

URFA Members,

Every year on September 30, Canadians from coast to coast wear orange to honour and commemorate survivors of the residential school system and to remember the damaging effects that the federal government’s act of forcing indigenous children into residential schools has had on indigenous communities that are still felt to this day.

The annual Orange Shirt Day campaign began in 2013 in Williams Lake, B.C., inspired by a story told by Phyllis Webstad, a residential school survivor. On her first day at St. Joseph Mission residential school, an orange shirt bought for her by her grandmother was taken away from her by school officials.

Orange Shirt Day is an opportunity for all of us to recognize and discuss the harmful impacts that residential schools have had and the legacy they continue to leave behind. It is an opportunity to listen to the stories of survivors, recommit to the process of reconciliation, and recognize that every child matters.

URFA is once again joining other unions, Indigenous communities, governments and communities to recognize orange shirt day this Monday, September 30. We ask URFA members to please join us in remembering those who were and continue to be impacted by the residential school system here in Saskatchewan and across Canada.

More information on Orange Shirt Day and additional resources are available online at www.orangeshirtday.org