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make Nunavut work



## **Show that *Every Child Matters* on September 30<sup>th</sup> by Wearing an Orange Shirt to Work**

**September 29, 2020 Iqaluit, Nunavut** – The Nunavut Employees Union (NEU) is asking Members to wear an



orange shirt to work on Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> to bear witness to the residential school experience and to symbolize a recognition of the healing journey of survivors and their families. Additionally, the NEU is encouraging Iqaluit based Members to don that orange shirt and join a Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) Nunavut Area Council event at Four Corners at 5:00 pm EST to mark that important date.

“September 30<sup>th</sup> is the day that indigenous children were removed from their families and

communities to attend residential schools,” says NEU President William (Bill) Fennell. “An indigenous child, Phyllis Webstad, was given an orange shirt to wear to a residential school in British Columbia by her grandmother. That shirt, along with so much of greater importance was taken away from Phyllis.”

“That is why Members throughout Nunavut who can should wear the important symbol of an orange shirt this Wednesday to mark a commitment to the ongoing process of reconciliation,” adds Fennell. “Also, everyone who can here in Iqaluit should come out to Four Corners at five pm on the 30<sup>th</sup> to show solidarity with the many residential school survivors and their families in Nunavut and throughout Canada.”

The NEU is supporting the PSAC Nunavut Area Council organized event in the capital city of Nunavut to pay special recognition to the experiences of Inuit residential school survivors.

“Let’s welcome this special day with open hearts, compassion and care for one another. This day is dedicated to commemorating the residential school experience and to honor survivors and their families,” states Jack Bourassa, PSAC North Regional Executive Vice-President. “Let’s witness the healing journey of courageous survivors and take a pledge to commit to and walk together in the path of reconciliation.”

The symbol of that commitment is an orange shirt and the success of that commitment will be an ongoing recognition of the residential school experience as well as the importance and need of continued reconciliation.

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