



**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 58 (NICOLA-SIMILKAMEEN)**

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

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September 29, 2022

Good afternoon families and staff of SD 58:

Tomorrow, September 30 marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This day honors the children who never returned home and Survivors of residential schools, and raises the awareness of the individual, family, and community inter-generational impacts of residential schools.

We must start with truth. Reconciliation cannot happen without our commitment to listen and learn the truths of Canada's history, the ongoing impacts of colonization, and the current realities that continue to adversely impact Indigenous people. In addition, we need to celebrate and honour the richness and beauty of local Indigenous communities, nations, language, and culture. Truth requires each of us to listen and learn with an open heart and mind to the survivors of residential schools, Elders, knowledge keepers, and members of Indigenous communities who are willing to share their stories.

Learning these truths comes with the responsibility to engage in specific actions towards reconciliation. As a District, we commit to the critical examination of policies, practices, systems, and beliefs and the implementation of corresponding actions to address the inequities that have and continue to negatively impact Indigenous learners, families, and communities.

This is and will continue to be challenging work, but together in classrooms, schools, and the district we can ensure that future generations know the truth of Canada's history and how to be active contributors towards reconciliation.

Today many of your children will have worn orange shirts and been a part of activities that support their learning and growth in the area of Truth and Reconciliation. Tomorrow we are also all encouraged to wear an orange shirt as a symbol of the stripping away of culture, freedom and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children over generations. We especially hope that for all of you, tomorrow is a day of reflection, conversation, and learning.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SMcNiven'.

Stephen McNiven
Superintendent of Schools

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JKempston'.

Jane Kempston
Assistant Superintendent