



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

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

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September 30, 2023

Dear Families and Staff:

Nicola-Similkameen Schools will not be in session on **Monday, October 2, 2023**, to recognize the **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation** and to remember and reflect on the history and ongoing impact of residential schools on Indigenous communities and families. This day serves as an important reminder of the injustices suffered by Indigenous peoples and the need for reconciliation.

Today, **Friday September 29, Orange Shirt Day** is also being recognized in Nicola-Similkameen Schools. **Orange Shirt Day** is a time to wear orange as a symbol of solidarity with Indigenous survivors and a commitment to reconciliation. It reminds us of the importance of acknowledging the pain and trauma caused by the residential school system and working towards healing and understanding.

We hope that this provides us all with continued opportunity to reflect on the diverse history of Indigenous people in what is now known as Canada, the impact of residential schools, and the ongoing journey towards reconciliation. It is a time to listen to the stories and experiences of Indigenous people, and to emphasize the value of respecting and appreciating different cultures and backgrounds. As always, we encourage families to engage with their children by discussing the importance of empathy, understanding and reconciliation.

We humbly recognize and acknowledge that we learn, teach and work on the traditional unceded territories of the Nlë?kepmx and Syilx people, and we acknowledge our Metis communities and their contributions to the Aboriginal ways of being and knowing. Together, we can all contribute to healing and understanding in our schools, communities, and beyond.

Sincerely,

Stephen McNiven
Superintendent of Schools

Gordon Swan
Chair, Board of Education