

## QUICK FACTS

Date: September 30, 2019

Why: To commemorate the survivors, families, and communities impacted by residential schools.

Numbers: Over 150,000 children passed through the residential schools, and at least 6000 died while in attendance.

There were over 130 residential schools in operation between 1831 and 1996.



## ORANGE SHIRT DAY

Orange Shirt Day is a national movement for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians to recognize and honour former residential school students and their families. September 30 has been chosen as the date because that is the time of the year that the children were taken from their families and forced to attend residential schools.

This day received its name in recognition of a survivor who shared the story of her new orange shirt being taken away from her on her first day of school at the St. Joseph Mission in Williams Lake, B.C. Phyllis Webstad was only six years old when she was sent to the Mission. Her granny bought her the shirt for her first day, but it was taken from her when she arrived. In her words, “the color orange has always reminded me of that and how my feelings didn’t matter, how no one cared, and how I felt like I was worth nothing.”

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*Every child matters*

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## RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL HISTORY

Residential schools began in 1831 with the Mohawk Institute in Brantford, Ontario. The goal of the residential schools was to assimilate Indigenous children into English society. These schools were government funded and church run. In total, about 150,000 First Nation, Inuit and Métis children went through these schools. The last school to close was the Gordon Residential School in Punnichy, Saskatchewan.

## HOW WILL WE BE COMMEMORATING THE DAY?

UNIFOR Local 4504 will be sending orange ribbons out to every member. We encourage you to wear these ribbons to commemorate the families and the communities impacted by the residential schools.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Unifor has 50,000 skilled trades members across Canada.

Unifor Local 4504 participates in Unifor Industry Councils such as Skilled Trades Council, and ETOP Council.

In 1973, the collective agreement (between UNB and CUPE at that time) notes that skilled trade (Red Seal) members made between \$3.09 - \$3.66 an hour.

In 1973 maternity leave was leave without pay to a maximum of 3 months. The current standard leave is 35 weeks, with the option of extending up to 61 weeks. The new extended leave can be shared by both parents!

In the new collective agreements, employees are now granted a leave of absence if they, or their child, are victims of domestic, sexual, or intimate partner violence.

A highlight of the Unifor Canadian Council 2019 (held August 19 to August 23, 2019) is that \$150,000 was donated to Quebec Women's Shelters.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### September 2: Labour Day Celebration

The Annual Labour Day Barbeque on September 2, 2019 will be from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm at Officers' Square. Unifor Local 4504 will have a table set up in "Union Row" identifying our Local and educating the public of our services.

### September 30: Orange Shirt Day

UNIFOR Local 4504 will be distributing orange ribbons to members. We encourage you to wear the ribbons and read about the legacy of the residential schools.

### October 23: Membership General Meeting

UNFOR Local 4504 will be meeting in MacLaggan Hall room 105 for our general meeting at 4:30 PM. We encourage everyone to attend.

## QUICK NEWS

Fredericton Pride 2019: Local members marched in the Fredericton Pride Parade on Sunday, August 19th. A great time was had by all!



Education courses: There are courses available for local members to apply to attend. These courses include Health and Safety, Women's Activists, and Mental Health Matters. Contact the union office or your local UVP for a list of courses and instructions on how to apply.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE

Worksafe NB issued their 2018 report. One tidbit of information from this report is that "in 2018, Worksafe NB spent, on average, \$1 million per month in hearing-loss claims alone. By the end of the year, hearing loss claims represented \$424 million in liabilities. New Brunswick has a three to four times higher claim rate than other Canadian jurisdictions." To find out how to mitigate and reduce your risk of hearing loss on the job, contact your local Health and Safety committee and visit Worksafe NB's website.