



qathet
REGIONAL DISTRICT



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TLA'AMIN NATION



September 30, 2024

Truth and Reconciliation: A Commitment to Working Together

The City of Powell River, qathet Regional District, and Tla'amin Nation are committed to working together to build a future based on truth, respect, and understanding.

On September 30, we reflect on the legacy of residential schools, honoring the survivors, their families, and the children who never made it home. It is our shared responsibility to uphold their dignity and ensure their experiences are never forgotten.

Wearing orange on this day holds deep meaning. The Orange Shirt Day movement began with Phyllis Webstad, who was stripped of her bright new orange shirt on her first day at residential school, a symbol of the way the system tried to erase the identity, culture, and individuality of First Nation children. By wearing orange, we recognize the enduring impact of residential schools and stand in solidarity with survivors.

Together, we acknowledge the very real harms caused by residential schools. Truth and Reconciliation Commissioner Murray Sinclair said that, "Education is what got us into this mess, and education will get us out." The truth is clear, and we must not deny it. We must face our shared history with courage, and compassion.

We recognize that we share this land and responsibilities to this community. Truth and reconciliation is not just about the past; it is about how we go about creating a strong, united community for tomorrow. To do this, we must continue listening, learning, and standing together.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission called on all levels of government to play their part. As three governments working together, we will honor the survivors and those we have lost by accepting the truth and continuing the important work of reconciliation, today and for generations to come.