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## BC SOCIAL WORKERS STATEMENT ON THE NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

As British Columbia's professional social work association we encourage all social workers to take time on the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to learn more about Canada's history of colonization and deepen their understanding of the ongoing effects.

We welcome the federal government's creation of this day of reflection and understanding. Our collective responsibility is to take the time needed on that day and every day, to understand the historical and present-day effects of colonization, to seek truth, and to work toward reconciliation.

The members, staff, and board of the BC Association of Social Workers extend our sincerest appreciation to those individuals, communities, and agencies working to educate others about colonization. We recognize that this educational work has fallen unfairly to Indigenous people and accept that professional associations such as ours, must take up this cause and actively engage in sharing truth and seeking reconciliation.

The BCASW understands that this day will be a difficult day for many Indigenous people especially those who experienced directly and indirectly, the effects of residential institutions. We see you, we acknowledge your pain, and we commit to working alongside you to develop a socially just future, free from racism and discrimination.

Our Association is committed to learning about colonization and incorporating that learning into progressive professional social work practice. We acknowledge that social workers were inextricably involved in government and church sponsored oppression of Indigenous people and we must continue the important work of honouring truth and developing decolonizing practices.

The BCASW office will be closed on September 30th to allow staff to engage in individual and group activities that deepen their understanding of the effects of colonization and to think about the way forward.

We encourage all social workers to do the same and we have provided a list of resources that may be helpful on our website – [bcasw.org](http://bcasw.org)

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Michael Crawford, MSW, RSW | President  
BC Association of Social Workers

The British Columbia Association of Social Workers (BCASW) is a voluntary, not-for-profit membership association that supports and promotes the profession of social work and advocates for social justice. BCASW is one of the provincial/territorial social work associations in partnership with the Canadian Association of Social Workers.

## National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Resource List

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - Canada.ca

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/national-day-truth-reconciliation.html>

National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation

<https://nctr.ca/>

The Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre

<https://irshdc.ubc.ca/>

The National Indigenous Cultural Safety Learning Series

<https://www.icscollaborative.com/home>

Indigenous Canada is a 12-lesson Massive Open Online Course from the Faculty of Native Studies, University of Alberta

<https://www.coursera.org/learn/indigenous-canada>

Tk'emlúps Nation extends invitation to mark National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/tk-emlups-sharing-song-1.6180478>

Children are Sacred: A Fundraising Concert in Recognition of Orange Shirt Day

<https://wlu.ca/academics/faculties/faculty-of-music/news/2021/fall/children-are-sacred-a-fundraising-concert-in-recognition-of-orange-shirt-day.html>

Events at UBC (Vancouver)

<https://apsc.ubc.ca/event/2021/save-date-national-day-truth-and-reconciliation>

<https://educ.ubc.ca/national-day-for-truth-and-reconciliation-2021/>

Events at SFU

<https://www.sfu.ca/aboriginalpeoples/sfu-reconciliation/national-day-for-truth-and-reconciliation.html>

Events at UVic

<https://www.uvic.ca/news/topics/2021+orange-shirt-day+news>

Events at TRU

<https://inside.tru.ca/events/event/orange-shirt-event/>

Events at UFV

<https://blogs.ufv.ca/blog/2021/09/18156/>

Events in Greater Victoria

<https://www.timescolonist.com/news/local/national-day-for-truth-and-reconciliation-events-in-greater-victoria-1.24360391>

Survivor offers advice on how to honour National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/survivor-offers-advice-on-how-to-honour-national-day-for-truth-and-reconciliation-1.5601122>

List of events on Twitter

<https://bit.ly/2Zq7fto>

Personal resources, should you need them

The National Residential School Crisis Line

1.866.925.4419

Residential School Survivor Support Line  
1.866.925.4419 & 1.877.477.0775

Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program  
<https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1581971225188/1581971250953>

Indian Residential School Survivors Society Counselling Services  
<https://www.irsss.ca/services/counselling>