



September 30th, 2022

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation / Orange Shirt Day

September 30th was declared National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (also known as Orange Shirt Day) by the Government of Canada in 2021. We at the Lakeland Centre for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) respect First Nations, Inuit, and Métis survivors, their families, and communities, the legacy and history of residential schools. We encourage our staff to reflect and engage in activities that honour those affected by the residential school system.

The Lakeland Centre for FASD is located on Treaty 6 territory, the traditional and ancestral territory of the Cree, Dene, Blackfoot, Saulteaux, and Nakota Sioux. We acknowledge that this territory is home to the Métis Settlements and the Métis Nation of Alberta, Regions 1 and 2 within the historical Northwest Métis Homeland. We acknowledge the many First Nations, Métis and Inuit who have lived in and cared for these lands for generations and whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.

In our Lakeland service area, there were two residential schools -- the Lac La Biche Residential School, Notre Dame des Victoires which was later relocated to St Paul and named Blue Quills Residential. The high school and its residence closed in 1990. As many as 200 children enrolled annually at Blue Quills during its operation. I would also like to acknowledge the many survivors and their families in this area and those children who did not make it home.

The Lakeland Centre for FASD has and continues to commit to aligning our values and actions with those guided by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to action and United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. We commit to working in collaboration with Indigenous people to deliver culturally appropriate prevention, diagnosis, and intervention support to individuals and families with FASD. We make this acknowledgement as an act of reconciliation and gratitude to those whose territory we reside on or are visiting.

This year, to support National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, The Lakeland Centre for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder staff members and stakeholders are encouraged to dedicate September 30th to learning about and remembering the legacy of residential schools.

To learn more about the history of Orange Shirt Day please visit: www.orangeshirtday.org/phyllis-story.

Sincerely,

Lisa Murphy
Executive Director
Lakeland Centre for FASD