

National Indigenous History Month

June is National Indigenous History Month to honour the history, heritage, and diversity of Indigenous peoples in Canada. It's an opportunity for all of us to learn about and appreciate the history, cultures, contributions, and strength of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people. It's also about learning of the ways in which we can recognize legacies of colonialism and anti-Indigenous racism and interrupt them within our own personal and professionals spheres of influence.

June 21st is National Indigenous Peoples Day

This is a day for all Canadians to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. The Canadian Constitution recognizes these three groups as Aboriginal peoples, also known as Indigenous peoples. Although these groups share many similarities, they each have their own distinct heritage, language, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs. In cooperation with Indigenous organizations, the Government of Canada chose June 21, the summer solstice, for National Aboriginal Day, now known as National Indigenous Peoples Day. For generations, many Indigenous people and communities have celebrated their culture and heritage on or near this day due to the significance of the summer solstice as the longest day of the year.

Sources: Government of Canada www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca and Children's Mental Health Ontario <https://cmho.org/>



Two-Spirited Flags
of First Nations



First Nations and Inuit Suicide Prevention



Canadian Native Flag

What is Orange Shirt Day?

Orange Shirt Day began in Williams Lake in 2013 and has since spread to schools across B.C. and Canada.

Orange Shirt Day (September 30th) is a day when we honour the Indigenous children who were sent away to residential schools in Canada and learn more about the history of those schools.



What are residential schools?

Residential schools were church-run schools where approximately 150,000 Métis, Inuit and First Nations children were sent between the 1860s and the 1990s. The schools harmed Indigenous children by removing them from their families, forcing them to speak English or French instead of their ancestral languages, disconnecting them from their culture and traditions and forcing them to adopt Christianity in order to assimilate into Canadian society. The government has since acknowledged that this approach was wrong, cruel and ineffective, and offered an official apology to the Indigenous people of Canada in 2008.

Why September 30th?

September 30th falls during the time of year when Indigenous children were taken away to residential school.

Why is it an orange shirt?

The “orange shirt” in Orange Shirt Day refers to the new shirt that Phyllis Webstad was given to her by her grandmother for her first day of school at St. Joseph’s Mission residential school in British Columbia. When Phyllis got to school, they took away her clothes, including her new shirt. It was never returned. To Phyllis, the colour orange has always reminded her of her experiences at residential school and, as she has said, “how my feelings didn’t matter, how no one cared and I felt like I was worth nothing. All of us little children were crying and no one cared.”

Source: CBC Kids <https://www.cbc.ca/kidscbc2/the-feed/what-is-orange-shirt-day>

Norval Morrisseau

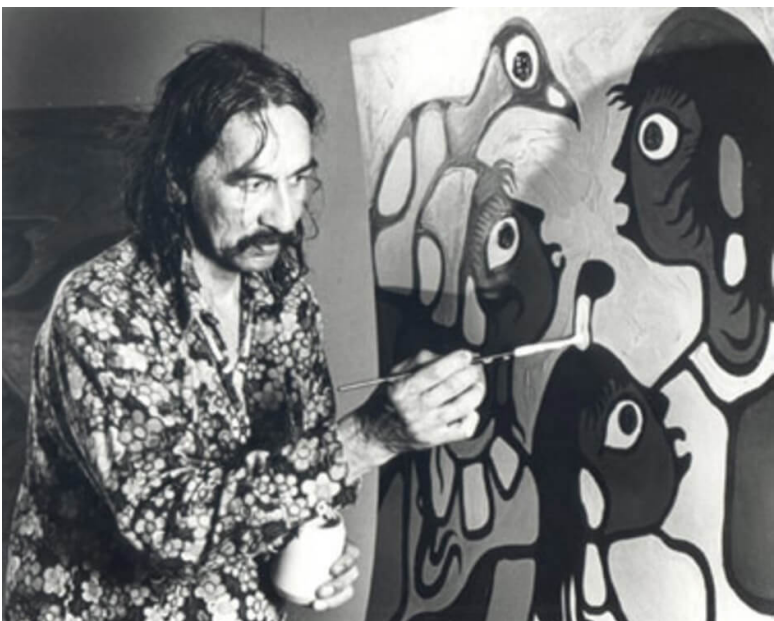
The colouring pages included in this booklet are all famous art painting from a Canadian Indigenous artist named Norval Morrisseau.

Paintings Names in order as they appear in the booklet are called: The Virgin Mary, The Great Earth Mother, Song of the Beaver, Boy, Mother and Child, Grandfather with Child and Children in the Tree.

Norval Morrisseau (1931–2007) is considered by many to be the *Mishomis*, or grandfather, of contemporary Indigenous art in Canada. His life has been sensationalized in newspapers and documentaries while his unique artistic style has pushed the boundaries of visual storytelling. The creator of the Woodland School of art and a prominent member of the Indian Group of Seven, Morrisseau is best known for using bright colours and portraying traditional stories, spiritual themes, and political messages in his work.

To learn more check out: Art Canada Institute Biography About Norval Morrisseau(<https://www.aci-iac.ca/art-books/norval-morrisseau/biography/>).

Sources: <http://www.supercoloring.com/> and <https://www.aci-iac.ca/>



Norval Morrisseau working on a painting while artist in residence at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection in 1979. Photograph by Ian Samson.



Norval Morrisseau, *Shaman and Disciples*, 1979, acrylic on canvas, 180.5 x 211.5 cm, McMichael Canadian Art Collection, Kleinburg, ON.

