

## National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Thursday September 30<sup>th</sup> Canada will engage in a day of remembrance and reflection for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. As a District we challenge each and everyone of you to embed reconciliation through action into our daily lives. We must work together to achieve this important goal.

We would like to share a very important message from Chief Nicole Rempel of the Komoks First Nation:

*“September 30th is a "national holiday" marked as National Truth and Reconciliation Day. Using the term "holiday" is mis-leading in my view however, and it is my hope that September 30th will be a day of reflection and education, much the way we view Remembrance Day.*

*While few of us today can imagine the impacts colonization and residential schools have had on Indigenous Peoples across Canada, most, if not all Indigenous Peoples live with the effects, daily reminders, racism and discrimination that colonization has had and continues to have on us.*

*It is up to you, as educators, and you as students, and actually more simply, as human beings capable of empathy, to learn, to teach, to see things from a new perspective that yes, can be uncomfortable, but by doing so we can break down barriers, and move forward together with kindness, understanding and a chance at a better future for the generations to come. Thank you for wearing your orange shirts today. I hope today and every day forward brings awareness to issues Indigenous Peoples face and that Reconciliation truly is the path we follow in the days and years ahead.”*

*Respectfully,*

*Chief Nicole Rempel  
Komoks First Nation*

Chief Justice Murray Sinclair stated “Achieving reconciliation is like climbing a mountain — we must proceed a step at a time. It will not always be easy. There will be storms, there will be obstacles, but we cannot allow ourselves to be daunted by the task because our goal is Just and it is also necessary.”

Thank you and we hope that you take time tomorrow to reflect and to commit to Truth and Reconciliation and to engage in the work it will require to become a reality.