

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

It's more than an orange shirt it's...

1. A commitment to teaching and learning about Indigenous health and well-being in Canada
2. Actively engaging in decolonization by advancing Indigenous perspectives and valuing Indigenous knowledge in education
3. Participating in Indigenous-led events to promote cultural preservation
4. Demanding that governments and institutions implement TRC's 94 Calls to Action and following up on their progress
5. A pledge to advocate for Indigenous representation in decision-making spaces
6. A promise to support Indigenous-led businesses
7. A dedication to continuing the work of reconciliation year-round by consistently seeking opportunities to learn, reflect, and take action toward ongoing change.

2025 Calendar

Visit [Office of Indigenous Initiatives Events](#) for events across campus

Thursday, September 11

Grand Rounds – Indigenous Planetary Health with Dr. Nicole Redvers: 12 pm – 1 pm, Auditorium A, University Hospital (Hybrid via [Zoom](#))

- Dr. Nicole Redvers will explore the health burden of global environmental changes
- Define planetary health through Indigenous perspectives
- Discuss physicians' roles in planetary health within health systems
- Open to all; no registration required
- Learn more from [Schulich](#)
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Thursday, September 11 at 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Art Thrive: Water | Fluidity

McIntosh Gallery

- Water systems are often visualized as a stream or a flow, an elemental force that is in constant motion. Our program Water | Fluidity features new media work Underwater Magic World by Cassie Packham (2025) and Canoeing the Black Creek by Dave Kemp (2023).
- Cassie Packham is an Onyota'a:ka (Oneida) artist born and raised in Mi'kma'ki (Nova Scotia).
- Artmaking Activity: Silkscreening tote bags with Soft Flirt.
- Learn more from [McIntosh Gallery](#).

Thursday, September 18

Youth Empowerment Gathering: 11:30 am (ADT) Live, September 25 - Rebroadcast

- "The Gifts We Carry" is the theme of this year's 90-minute live educational gathering, celebrating the strengths, stories, and resilience within Indigenous



communities. The event honours Residential School Survivors through powerful storytelling, music, dance, and cultural expression. Students will engage with Survivors, Elders, artists, and knowledge-holders, opening meaningful dialogue about the truths of Canada's residential school system.

- Learn more at the [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, University of Manitoba](#)

Monday, September 22 – Friday, September 26

Lunch & Learns

- Join a compelling series of daily Lunch and Learn webinars that invite participants to critically examine and unlearn the myths of colonial history in Canada. These virtual sessions are open to the public and intended for an adult audience. Each webinar will be hosted via Zoom and streamed live on YouTube. Sessions feature expert speakers delivering 40–50-minute presentations, followed by a moderated Q&A. Simultaneous interpretation will be available in English, French, and American Sign Language (ASL).
- Learn more at the [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, University of Manitoba](#)

Tuesday, September 23 at 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. via Zoom

Indigenous Health Equity

- This free event will feature three speakers – Sara Mai Chitty, Benny Skinner, and Gabrielle Heil – who will share their perspectives and expertise on Indigenous health equity, pedagogy, and research.
- The Decolonization, Anti-Racism, and Anti-Oppression (DARAO) Committee is a formal committee of Council within the Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing. Our membership includes, students (undergraduate and graduate), faculty (Western & Fanshawe), alumni, community & Practice Partners and Western EDIDA Leaders.
- Our goals are to advocate for anti-racism, anti-oppression, and decolonization principles. We have many exciting plans this year, and our first event is this speaker series, held in alignment with the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, with a focus on Indigenous health equity.
- [Register here](#)

Wednesday, September 24 at 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Art Thrive: Water | Remembering

Weldon Library Scholar's Lab

- In Water | Remembering this series of short films explore how familial and ancestral bonds are cultivated with and through connection to the natural environment, specifically through water systems.
- Work by Indigenous filmmakers: Cole Forrest (Nipissing First Nation), Evelyn Pakinewatik (Nipissing First Nation) and Amanda Strong (Red River Métis/Manitoba Métis Federation)

- Artmaking Activity: Silkscreening t-shirts with local artist Flourish and Grow. Watercolour painting.
- Learn more from [McIntosh Gallery](#).

Thursday, September 25 at 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Allied Scholarship in Indigenous Research Panel: Reflections, Responsibilities, and Realities

Wampum Learning Lodge

- Organized by Western Research
- Panelists: Dr. Evan Bowness (Geography & Environment), Dr. Brian Branfireun (Biology), Dr. Lisa Hodgetts (Anthropology), Dr. Desmond Moser (Earth Sciences)
- Moderated by Dr. Alison Allan (Western Research)
- Panelists will share personal insights from their experiences working with Indigenous Peoples, focusing on lessons learned, ethical considerations and the responsibilities of respectful collaboration.
- The conversation will examine the challenges of conducting reciprocal research within academic systems that often prioritize traditional success metrics like publication, funding and tenure.
- Attendees will gain practical guidance on how allied scholars can contribute meaningfully by honouring community priorities, cultural protocols, long-term commitments and navigating institutional pressures.
- [Register for the event](#)

Saturday, September 27 – Wednesday, October 1

Flag Raising – The Survivors' Flag will be raised at London City Hall and Dearness home on September 27 and will fly until October 1

- Learn more about the [survivors' flag](#)

Thursday, September 25

Ten Years of Truth, a lifetime of action: Part Two – Panel Discussion:

1 pm – 2:30 pm

- Hosted by: Andrea Dillingham-Lacoursiere, Rochele Padiachy
- Marking a decade since the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, this webinar explores the critical shift from truth-telling to sustained, transformative action. In part two of the series, Ten years of Truth, a lifetime of action, this panel discussion will reflect on the progress made, address persistent barriers, and chart a bold path for reconciliation in our organizations and communities over the next decade
- Audience: This panel webinar is for individuals and organizations committed to deepening their understanding of reconciliation and exploring collective actions to advance meaningful change.
- Learn more [here](#)

Sunday, September 28

Faculty of Music - Commemorating the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

3 – 4:30 pm, Paul Davenport Theatre, Talbot College, Western University

- Ian Cusson, composer
Emma Pennell, soprano
Rebecca Crane, mezzo-soprano
Evan Korbut, baritone
Western University Singers
- Join the Don Wright Faculty of Music for a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation commemoration concert. As part of the events leading up to September 30, this event will feature solo performances by alumni [Emma Pennell](#) and [Evan Korbut](#), and Master's student [Rebecca Crane](#) as well selections performed by the [Western University Singers](#) under the direction of Dr. [Mark Ramsay](#)*. Programming includes selections from Ian Cusson's *Five Songs on Poems by Marilyn Dumont*: "Letter to Sir John A MacDonald", "Red + White", and "The Devil's Language" and we are proud to host Ian as part of this special event.
- *This event is funded by the Deans of Western.*
- All are welcome. No tickets or RSVP required. Simply attend and enjoy!
- Learn more [here](#)

Monday, September 29

Orange Shirt Flag Raising Ceremony: 10 am to 12 pm at Concrete Beach (University Community Centre)

- Elders, Indigenous community leaders and campus leaders speaking to the importance of Truth and Reconciliation at Western
- A traditional drumming group during the ceremony
- Open to all
- For more event details [click here](#)

Monday, September 30: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Sunrise Ceremony: 6:30 am to 2 pm at the Wampum Learning Lodge

- Sunrise Ceremony led by Elder Mike Hopkins
- Long skirts will be admired, but not required
- Breakfast & refreshments to be served after the sunrise ceremony (while supplies last)
- Sacred fire to remain lit until 2 p.m., all visitors welcome throughout the day to pay respects and offer prayers
- Open to everyone

Reclaiming Through Care: A Talk with Dr. Eva Jewell: 12 – 1 pm

- In-person Group Viewing: DSB1002, Dental Sciences Building, Western University
- Virtual Livestream: [Register here to receive a link](#)

- Dr. Jewell's research explores the critical role of care and labour in Indigenous reclamation efforts, as well as the unique ethics of care embedded within Indigenous worldviews.

Afternoon of Allyship: 12 pm to 2:45 pm (Social Science Centre (SSC) Room 2050)

- Co-organized by the Faculty of Social Science and the Faculty of Science.
- Reflect on what allyship means as a student, supervisor, researcher or leader at Western.
- Speakers include: Dr. Christy R. Bressette (Office of Indigenous Initiatives) presenting on Braiding Truth Into Action: A Guide Towards Indigenous Allyship at Western University; Drs. Lindsay Bell and Tania Granadillo (Anthropology) speaking on "Availability without Expectation: Allyship in Indigenous Language Reclamation; and, Dr. Desmond Moser (Earth Sciences) speaking on "Allying Western Science with Indigenous Priorities"
- A light lunch will be served at 12 p.m. for the first 75 attendees
- Learn more about [the event](#)

Film Screening & Director's Talk: Return of the Spirit Horses: 1 – 2:30 pm

Schulich Hall, Frank Holmes Centre, Huron University College

- Opening Ceremony led by Mary Lou Smoke (Elder-in-Residence (Wampum Learning Lodge)).
- Special screening of Return of the Spirit Horses with filmmaker Derek Sands (Walpole Island First Nation), celebrating Indigenous resilience and cultural restoration while inviting our community to reflect on healing, tradition, and the enduring bond between people and the land.
- This film follows an Indigenous filmmaker as he reconnects with the stories of his youth through the once nearly extinct Ojibwe Spirit horses. Guided by his father, a Residential School Survivor of Walpole Island, and joined by Indigenous students learning from an Elder, and community members, they unravel their history and the deep, personal bond they share with the horses, which once rode freely.

N'Amerind Friendship Centre Orange Shirt Day Event: 6:30 am – 1 pm

- Sacred Fire – 6:30 am
- Pipe Ceremony – 7 am
- Community Breakfast – 8 am (please bring your own feast bundle)
- Youth Writing Contest Winners – 10:30 am
- Community Circle – 11 am – 1 pm

Official Unveiling of the Former Mohawk Institute Residential School as an Interpreted Historic Site: 10 am – 6 pm, Woodland Cultural Centre, 184 Mohawk Street, Brantford, ON

- To manage capacity and provide a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone, we will be using timed entry for this event. Entry will be on a first-come, first-served basis, as there is no pre-registration for the event. For your convenience,

a limited number of bracelets allowing early access can be picked up at our gift shop on September 25th and 26th (while supplies last).

- Learn more [here](#)

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

Links to Resources

Teaching and Learning Guides

- [Indigenous Initiatives](#)
- [Assembly of First Nations: Promoting the physical, mental, spiritual and emotional well-being of First Nations](#)
- [Statista: Indigenous health in Canada - Statistics & Facts](#)
- [National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health: NCCIH Knowledge Resources & Publications](#)
- [The Indigenous Knowledge Implementation Packsack: A Handbook for Embedding Indigenous Ways of Knowing in Your Teaching](#)
- [Engaging with the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Toolkit](#)
- [Guides for working with Indigenous community members](#)

Take a course

- [4 Seasons of Reconciliation Modules](#)
- [Connecting for Climate Change Active Course by Western](#)
- [Indigenous Canada Course by University of Alberta](#)
- [Biindigen's Indigenous History Month Challenge 2023](#)

Take action

- [12 Ways to Engage in Truth and Reconciliation at Western](#)
- [ON CANADA PROJECT: SETTLERS TAKE ACTION](#)
- [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action](#)
- [London Public Library Truth and Reconciliation](#)

Support businesses and attend events

- [Indigenous Business Directory \(sac-isc.gc.ca\)](#)
- [Woodland Cultural Centre](#)