

BC Association of Aboriginal
Friendship Centres
BCA AFC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 30, 2026

BCA AFC's Statement on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

VICTORIA, B.C. – Today, we honour Residential School Survivors who were forcibly taken from their families and communities, as well as those who never returned home. We extend our strength and solidarity to Survivors, their families, and all those who continue to carry the harmful impacts of the Residential School system every day.

As an Indigenous organization, we recognize that truth and reconciliation are deeply personal and ongoing. Truth means acknowledging the realities of colonialism and the harms caused by Residential Schools, including the loss of language, culture, family, community, and connection to land. Reconciliation requires more than recognition; it also requires listening, accountability, respect, and meaningful action.

Today, we hold space for remembrance, grief, strength, and hope. We honour the resilience of our Peoples, the knowledge carried by Elders and Survivors, and the continued revitalization of our languages, cultures, traditions, and ways of being.

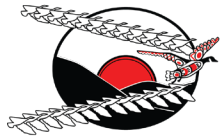
We encourage everyone to approach this day with humility and a willingness to listen, learn, and reflect. Across the province, many Friendship Centres are hosting events, while businesses and organizations are raising funds in support of the incredible work our centres do to help Urban Indigenous people reconnect with their cultures and support each individual's vision of wellness.

May September 30 be not only a day of remembrance, but also a reminder of the responsibilities we carry throughout the year — to listen, to learn, to honour the truth, and to take meaningful action toward reconciliation.

Supports and Resources

Please reach out to the following resources if you are in need:

BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres
551 Chatham St | Victoria, BC | V8T 1E1 | www.bcaafc.com
(Office) 250-388-5522 or 1-800-990-2432 | (Fax) 250-388-5502



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- KUU-US Crisis Line Society (BC): Provides 24-hour crisis services for Indigenous people in B.C. Youth Line: 250-723-2040. Toll-Free: 1-800-588-8717.
- Talk4Healing: A culturally safe phone line for Indigenous women, offering services in 14 languages.
- The Indian Residential School Crisis Line: Provides 24-hour crisis support to former Indian Residential School students and their families toll-free at 1-866 925-4419.
- Hope For Wellness Helpline: Professional counsellors who can offer 24-hour culturally appropriate support in English, French, Cree, Ojibway, and Inuktitut. Available through online chat or phone: 1-855-242-3310 or hopeforwellness.ca.
- Tsow-Tun Le Lum Society: Call their toll-free crisis line at 1-888-403-3123 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. on weekdays and between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on weekends and holidays.
- Suicide Crisis Helpline: Call or text 9-8-8 (toll-free) to access 24-hour trauma informed and culturally appropriate suicide prevention crisis support.

Contact

communications@bcaafc.com
250-388-5522

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