

*McGill University is on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations. We acknowledge and thank the diverse Indigenous peoples whose presence marks this territory especially on this inaugural National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.*

**September 30, 2021**

Dear SPGH Community,

Let me begin by recognizing the leadership of the National Truth and Reconciliation Commission in their efforts to establish this National Day as per the [Call to Action 80](#) of the Truth and Reconciliation Report:

**“We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, to establish, as a statutory holiday, a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to honour Survivors, their families, and communities, and ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process.”**

As a SPGH we recognize the deleterious effects the residential school system has had on the physical and mental health of those who attended as well as their families and communities. This is a day of remembrance and education. The many events happening on [campus](#), and nationwide provide us an opportunity to become more educated on the lamentable legacy of the residential school system and the important recommendations found in the [report](#) of The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

There are two events in particular I would like to highlight:

- Kevin Jutras, an MScPH student in our school has planned an **Indigenous Health workshop** with a fantastic line up of speakers. This workshop will introduce attendees to an Indigenous perspective on health, healthcare systems accessibility and the many related challenges. The event flyer and zoom link can be found [here](#). We thank Kevin for his initiative in organizing this event and encourage everyone to attend.



- Every Child Matters - A day of action for National Truth and Reconciliation. This event is organized by the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal, in partnership with the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador (AFNQL), this mobilization is part of the "Every Child Matters" movement to commemorate the tragedy of Residential Schools. It begins at 1pm at Place du Canada (near Peel & René Levesque) followed by a march to Place des Arts. Participants are invited to wear orange and bring their drums. For more information about the gathering: [www.facebook.com/events/2932566447011065](https://www.facebook.com/events/2932566447011065)

Finally, please engage in the spirit of this day by wearing an orange shirt in solidarity and remembrance of the Survivors of residential schools, and especially those who are no longer with us. Let's listen with open ears!

Tim

Timothy G. Evans

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