

## **Appendix A: Schedule of Events – Niagara Region’s Corporate Day of Learning and Reflection in Observing the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**

Please note: An email will be sent on September 27, 2021 to all staff and Regional Council inviting them to pre-register for the events noted below.

### **Opening Remarks, 9:00am to 9:30am**

Hosted by Natalie Early, Director of Corporate Strategy and Innovation, opening remarks will be livestreamed from Council Chambers from Regional Chair Bradley, Acting CAO Ron Tripp and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Program Manager Cassie Ogunniyi.

### **Block A: Profiling Indigenous Cinema, 10:00am to 11:30am**

Option 1: [Jordan River Anderson, The Messenger](https://www.nfb.ca/playlists/indigenous-cinema-classroom-ages-1518/playback/#17)  
(<https://www.nfb.ca/playlists/indigenous-cinema-classroom-ages-1518/playback/#17>),  
1hr 5 mins

Moderators: Michelle Johnston & Kate Harold

Description: Alanis Obomsawin's 52<sup>nd</sup> film tells the story of how the life of Jordan River Anderson initiated a battle for the right of First Nations and Inuit children to receive the same standard of social, health and educational services as the rest of the Canadian population.

Option 2: [Six Miles Deep](https://www.nfb.ca/playlists/indigenous-cinema-classroom-ages-1518/playback/#11) (<https://www.nfb.ca/playlists/indigenous-cinema-classroom-ages-1518/playback/#11>), 43 mins

Moderator: Gina van den Burg & Jeffrey Sinclair

Description: On February 28, 2006, members of the Iroquois Confederacy blockaded a highway near Caledonia, Ontario to prevent a housing development on land that falls within their traditional territories. The ensuing confrontation made national headlines for months. Less well-known is the crucial role of the clan mothers of the community who set the rules for conduct. When the community's chiefs ask people to abandon the barricades, it is the clan mothers who overrule them, leading a cultural reawakening in their traditionally matriarchal community.

**National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation's "Beyond Orange Shirt Day"  
presented by Phyllis Webstad, 11:30am to 12:15pm**

No moderators. Description: Since 2013, September 30<sup>th</sup> has been remembered as Orange Shirt Day, started by Phyllis Webstad based on her first experience at a residential school when she was six years old and was stripped of her new orange shirt. Phyllis has turned her story into an opportunity to inform people around the world about residential schools and their long term legacy impacting generations of Indigenous people.

Phyllis Webstad is Northern Secwepemc (Shuswap) from the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation (Canoe Creek Indian Band). She comes from mixed Secwepemc and Irish/French heritage, was born in Dog Creek, and lives in Williams Lake, BC. Today, Phyllis is the Executive Director of the Orange Shirt Society, and tours the country telling her story and raising awareness about the impacts of the residential school system. She has now published two books, the "Orange Shirt Story" and "Phyllis's Orange Shirt" for younger children.

**Lunch & Learn: Engaging with Indigenous communities, 12:15pm to 1:00pm**

Host: Cassie Ogunniyi, Gina van den Burg and Michelle Johnston

Description: This lunch and learn session will provide staff the opportunity to reflect on the activities of the morning and the importance of the day. There will be a brief overview of recent Indigenous engagement reports commissioned by the Region, followed by discussion and reflection using breakout rooms.

**[Our Sisters in Spirit](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zdzM6krfaKY) Film Screening and Q&A with Local Filmmaker Nick Printup  
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zdzM6krfaKY>), 1:00pm to 2:30pm**

A short documentary that explores the question of calling a national public inquiry into the issue of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls in Canada or whether there may be a better approach.

The documentary features interviews with family and community advocates; Members of Parliament; Sophie Gregoire-Trudeau; Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, Hon. Dr. Carolyn Bennett; Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chief, Arnold General; and researcher and author of An Awkward Silence, Maryanne Pearce, LL.D.

The film was supported by the First Nations Inuit and Metis Student Services and the Centre for Student Engagement and Leadership. At the 2015 Niagara College Film, Radio and Television (FRATS) Awards show, the film won for Best Documentary and

Best Cinematography. It has also been shown at local Sisters in Spirit vigils, at York University, and at the National Gathering of Our Sisters in Spirit held in Edmonton, Alberta.

### **Block B: Profiling Indigenous Cinema, Short Films, 2:30pm to 3:30pm**

Option 1: [Second Stories – It Had to Be Done](https://www.nfb.ca/playlists/indigenous-cinema-classroom-ages-1518/playback/#5) (https://www.nfb.ca/playlists/indigenous-cinema-classroom-ages-1518/playback/#5), 22 mins

Moderators: Pam Abeysekara and Michelle Johnston

Description: This short documentary explores the legacy of residential schools through the eyes of two extraordinary women who not only lived it, but who, as adults, made the surprising decision to return to the school that had affected their lives so profoundly. This intimate and moving film affirms their strength and dignity in standing up and making a difference on their own terms.

Option 2: Indigenous Perspectives Docuseries, less than one hour

No moderators. The Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre produced this three part docuseries highlighting Indigenous history in Niagara. Together they are less than an hour long. *This is mandatory education through the Region's myLearning platform for Regional staff. **Regional Council can click the links below to watch the docuseries:***

[In The Beginning](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3FQRAP9Mq0) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3FQRAP9Mq0) – Part 1 focuses on how life was prior to contact with settlers and the Indigenous contributions to the War of 1812.

[Residential Schools](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=80mADZNX_Bs) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=80mADZNX\_Bs) – Part 2 looks at the tragedies of the residential school system, the 60s Scoop, and the Millennial Scoop, and their impacts on Indigenous peoples and communities in the present.

[Racism and Healing](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SUobmkxZR6Q) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SUobmkxZR6Q) – Part 3 discusses racism in Canada today and how the community is healing from the trauma they have experienced.

**Facilitated Session & Closing: What have we learned and where do we go from here?, 3:30pm to 4:30pm**

Host: Cassie Ogunniyi

Description: This session will provide the opportunity to debrief and reflect on the activities of the day and the content of the films, presentations and documentaries. Participants will discuss the impacts of the content on their daily work and the work of the Region, and brainstorm ideas of how the Region can address systemic discrimination and Anti-Indigenous racism.