

**National Day for Truth and Reconciliation / Orange Shirt Day  
at Assiniboine Park and Zoo**

**For immediate release:** Winnipeg, September 25, 2024 – In observance of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day (Monday, September 30), the Assiniboine Park Conservancy will host a Sacred Fire in the Indigenous Peoples Garden at The Leaf to honour the resilience, strength, and bravery of the survivors of the Indian Residential School System.

“We encourage Park visitors to consider the importance of this day as an opportunity for our community to pause and reflect on the tragic legacy of Canada’s Indian Residential School System, the harms of the past and present, and how we can come together as a community to work toward a better future for all,” said Ray Karasevich, President & CEO, Assiniboine Park Conservancy.

The Sacred Fire will begin at 7:30 a.m. on September 30 and be maintained until 6:00 p.m. The Fire Node in the Indigenous Peoples Garden at The Leaf is a welcoming and contemplative space open to all. Park visitors are invited to join us here for a quiet moment of personal reflection or engage with Indigenous educator Cree Crowchild who will be interacting with visitors and sharing tobacco teachings from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

### **Community Donations**

In recognition of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day, we will also engage with visitors to support the important work of two Indigenous-led organizations through a minimum donation of \$10,000 to be divided evenly between the [Orange Shirt Society](#) and [Circles for Reconciliation](#).

The donation will consist of the following:

- 15% of sales earned from admissions at The Leaf and Assiniboine Park Zoo on Monday, September 30.
- 100% of orange lapel ribbon donations – On Monday, September 30, orange lapel ribbons purchased from Dreamcatcher Promotions will be offered to visitors with a request for donations at the Park Café, The Leaf, the Fire Node in the Indigenous Peoples Garden, and multiple locations within the Zoo.
- 100% of orange t-shirt sales – Orange t-shirts featuring a custom design created by Paige Spence, an Indigenous woman who interned at the Assiniboine Park Conservancy, are available for purchase (\$15) at Wild Things Unique Gifts. Located at the Zoo entrance at 2595 Roblin Boulevard, Wild Things is accessible with or without Zoo admission. *While quantities last.*

For more information, please visit the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation [event page](#) on our website. All Park attractions will be open regular [hours of operation](#) on September 30.

*Thank you to the Assiniboine Park Conservancy's National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Committee for their leadership and contributions to the ongoing process of reconciliation. The committee includes employees from across the organization who work together to coordinate meaningful, inclusive, and informative events in support of this important day of awareness.*

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### **For more information, please contact:**

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