

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

**For immediate release:** Winnipeg, September 25, 2025 – In observance of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day (Tuesday, 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.

“The Indigenous Peoples Garden is a meaningful gathering place that honours Indigenous cultures, knowledge, and traditions,” said Ray Karasevich, President & CEO of Assiniboine Park Conservancy. “On this day of awareness, we encourage Park visitors to join us around the Sacred Fire and reflect on our shared history in Canada, the continuing work to address past and present harms, and to embrace opportunities for learning, understanding, and connection with Indigenous cultures throughout the year.”

The Sacred Fire will begin at 9:00 a.m. on September 30 and be maintained until 5:00 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 Wayne Lalman who will be interacting with visitors and sharing tobacco teachings.

### 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 [Ka Ni Kanichik – Those Who Lead](#).

The donation will consist of the following:

- **15% of sales earned from admissions at The Leaf and Assiniboine Park Zoo** on Tuesday, September 30.
- **100% of orange lapel ribbon donations** – On Tuesday, September 30, orange lapel ribbons will be offered to visitors with a suggested donation of \$4. They will be available at The Leaf, the Fire Node in the Indigenous Peoples Garden, and multiple locations within the Zoo.
- **100% of orange t-shirt sales** – Two styles of orange t-shirts will be available for purchase at Wild Things Unique Gifts. One features a custom design created by Paige Spence, an Indigenous woman who interned at the Assiniboine Park Conservancy (adult sizes \$20). The other features a design by Dreamcatcher Promotions (youth sizes \$15, adult sizes \$20). Located at the Zoo entrance at 2595 Roblin Boulevard, Wild Things is accessible with or without Zoo admission. While quantities last.

As a gesture of solidarity and empathy, all Assiniboine Park employees will be invited to wear orange shirts or lapel ribbons on Monday, September 29 and Tuesday, September 30.

For more information, please visit the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation [event page](#) on the Park website. All 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.*

### For more information, please contact:

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