

# CALL TO ACTION #80

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.

—Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

## NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH & RECONCILIATION



Each year, September 30 marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (also known as Orange Shirt Day) as a response to Call #80

It is a day to honour and remember the children taken from their families, those who never returned home, and the individuals, families and communities still living with the lasting impacts and trauma caused by the residential school system in Canada. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process.

—Government of Canada



## PHYLLIS WEBSTAD

People wear orange shirts on this day because of Phyllis Webstad's story. On her first day at residential school, her shiny new orange shirt, that was bought by her grandmother, was taken away from her as a six-year old girl.

—Orange Shirt Day Society

## COMMEMORATION OF SEPTEMBER 30

The date was chosen because it was the time of year in which children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year. It is an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.

—Orange Shirt Day Society

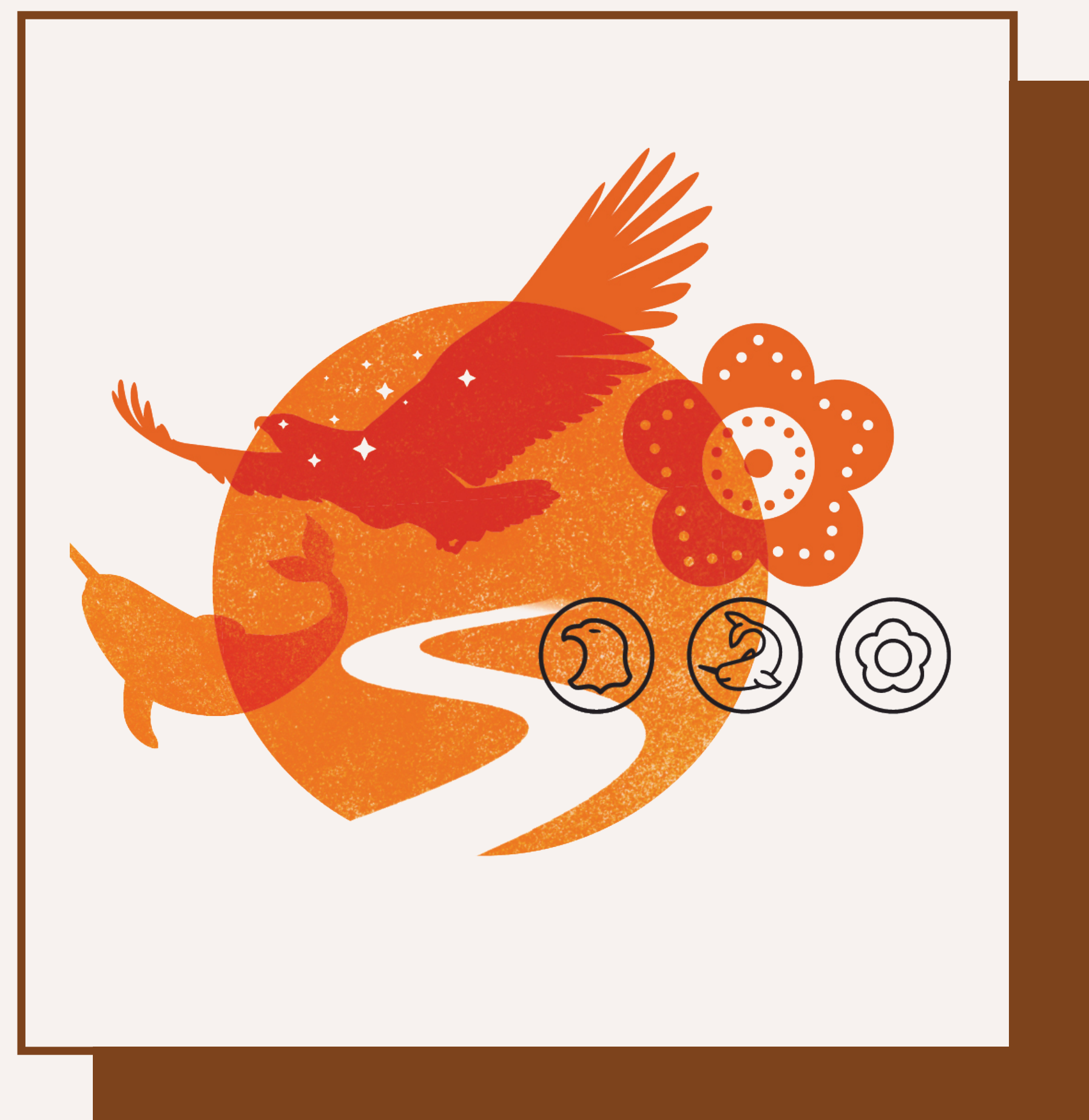
## EVERY CHILD MATTERS



Along wearing orange-coloured clothes to show support, "Every Child Matters" is also on t-shirts, social media, and signage. The slogan is a message used to honour the innocent lives lost. It symbolizes that every child is important, including the ones who lose their lives and the adults who are still healing from their difficult time at residential schools.

—True North Aid

## VISUAL ELEMENTS



Among the various visual elements illustrating Indigenous cultures, the circle is at the centre, which represents being together in spirit of reconciliation. The orange colour represents truth-telling and healing. The pathway represents the road to reconciliation. First Nations are represented by the eagle, Inuit by the narwhal, and Métis by the beaded flower in the image. The stars represent the children who never made it home from residential schools.

—Government of Canada