



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** August 20, 2021

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## **YMCA's Updated Commitment to Reconciliation**

Saskatoon, SK: The YMCA of Saskatoon's ongoing mission is to make Saskatoon a place where everyone can feel like they belong. In alignment with this mission, we are continuing to focus on our commitment to reconciliation.

As previously announced, we have focused on providing educational resources for staff and volunteers for the past couple of months. Along with the Nisitohamowin e-learning announced in July, the YMCA of Canada offers diversity and Social inclusion courses to all YMCA associations. We recommend that all staff and volunteers complete this course, if they haven't already, by September 30.

The significance of this date lies in the fact that it will be the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and a federal holiday. Instead of closing our facilities, we will be using this time to reflect on our roles and responsibilities as individuals and as an organization. We must honour the survivors of residential schools and their families and acknowledge the history and legacy this has left in our society.

On September 30, we encourage YMCA representatives to participate in community events and ceremonies that mark the day of observance. Resources will be provided to all child care centres and Before and After School Care programs that will cover Indigenous history in Canada. Staff at all YMCA locations are invited to wear orange shirts supporting the Orange Shirt Society or local Indigenous organizations and artists.

Since the mass unmarked burial sites were rediscovered in Kamloops last May, thousands of graves have been uncovered across Canada, including 751 in Saskatchewan. This is not history; it is an example of the roots of what has grown into the discrimination and hate Indigenous people face today. It is our duty as colonizers to continue to bring awareness to the continuing injustice, so it does not get pushed to the side again. We must learn to repair what we have broken, and we are still on our journey to do so.

Listed below are resources we encourage everyone to read and use to inform change in your workplaces, life and friendships:

### **Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action**

[https://ehprnh2mwo3.exactdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Calls\\_to\\_Action\\_English2.pdf](https://ehprnh2mwo3.exactdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf)

### **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Final Report**

<https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/final-report/>

*If you are a former residential school student in distress or have been affected by the residential school system and need help, you can contact the 24-hour Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line: 1-866-925-4419*