



For Immediate Release: September 30, 2021

## **Alberta Students Call for Greater Emphasis on Truth and Reconciliation.**

September 30, 2021, marks the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. On this day, Canadians across the country join to remember and honour the lost children and Survivors of residential schools, their families, and communities. Public commemorations and remembrance of the tragedies continuing to impact fellow Canadians are the beginnings of the long road to reconciliation.

ASEC stands with Indigenous Canadians and will be closed on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Alberta students call on all levels of government to dedicate greater amounts of resources and efforts towards reconciliation with a specific focus on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's calls to action.

As well, we encourage our partners to take this time to grow their understanding of Truth and Reconciliation by participating in Orange Shirt Day. The Orange Shirt has become a symbol of the movement and represents the stripping away of the culture, freedom, and self-esteem that Indigenous children have suffered for generations.

*"Today is not a holiday, it's a day of mourning the losses we have all faced, but also a day of empowerment and visibility. It is a day to see those who do not feel seen, hear those who do not feel heard, and empower those who have not been empowered."*

**Shannon Humphrey**, Vice-President Academic  
Red Deer Polytechnic Students' Association

Mental health supports have been established by the Government of Canada and The Hope for Wellness hotline to connect with Survivors and sufferers of generational trauma caused by residential schools. Please visit the Government of Canada webpage below to access these crucial services:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/national-day-truth-reconciliation.html>

ASEC exists to support post-secondary student leaders by providing advocacy, networking, and professional development. We represent over 110,000 students from university, college, and polytechnic associations. We work with all orders of government, and call upon them to not forget the failed lessons of the past and to never again repeat them.

