

ORANGE SHIRT DAY FUND

2026 GRANT GUIDE

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ORANGE SHIRT DAY FUND

Orange Shirt Day is a day to recognize and reflect on the tragic history and ongoing legacy of residential schools, honour Survivors and remember the children who never returned home.

The orange shirt became a symbol of remembrance for residential schools Survivors following the leadership of Phylis Webstad of the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation, who shared her story of how her new orange shirt was taken away from her on her first day at St. Joseph Mission Residential School, leaving her with feelings of worthlessness and insignificance. As Indigenous children were taken from their families, homes and communities at the end of September, September 30th was chosen as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, also known as Orange Shirt Day.

In December 2023, Manitoba established Orange Shirt Day as a provincial statutory holiday, so that all Manitobans can reflect on the legacy of residential schools and the profound impacts of that trauma that still exists today. Establishing this statutory holiday directly responds to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action 80.

The Manitoba government is once again supporting projects that will help bring more Manitobans together to mark Orange Shirt Day through the [Orange Shirt Day Fund](#), which provides funding for projects and initiatives that create opportunities for Manitobans to come together in observation, reflection and commemoration.

FUND OBJECTIVES

The Fund encourages Manitobans to reflect on the impacts of the Indian Residential School System. Proposals submitted to the Orange Shirt Day Fund must contribute to any of the following outcomes:

- Ensure that the legacy and impacts of the Indian Residential School system are not forgotten by enhancing understanding of the truth of the Residential School system in Manitoba.
- Ensure that Survivors are recognized and honoured for their strength and resilience.
- Ensure that the children who never returned home from Indian residential schools are commemorated and memorialized so that their memory will continue to live on.
- Foster relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Manitobans.
- Support activities that align with the [Path to Reconciliation Act](#), the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action](#) and/or the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#).

PROJECT GUIDELINES

To the greatest extent possible, projects must:

- Prioritize Indigenous-owned vendors and businesses in the planning and delivery of the project. As a secondary consideration, projects should prioritize the use of Canadian vendors and businesses. We have compiled a non-exhaustive list of Indigenous vendor directories that may assist applicants:
 - [Province of Manitoba | central - Indigenous Business Directory](#)
 - [Directories - Indigenous Chamber of Commerce Manitoba](#)
 - [LRCC - Business Directory](#)
 - [Southern First Nation Business Directory - Southern Chiefs' Organization Inc.](#)
- Prioritize the knowledge, experiences and teachings of Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Survivors, and Indigenous partners in the planning and delivery of your project.
- Provide opportunity to build relationship and understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.
- Be accessible to the public.
- Be time-limited and scheduled around Orange Shirt Day (September 30). Projects must not support ongoing programming, and the funds cannot be carried over or used for activities in the following year, or activities unrelated to observing Orange Shirt Day.

WHAT WE FUND

Eligible Proposals

- Proposals that align with the Fund Objectives; and
- Proposals for one-time initiatives to observe Orange Shirt Day (September 30). Initiatives do not have to take place on September 30, but must be time limited and scheduled around September 30.

Ineligible Proposals

- Proposals for multi-year or ongoing projects.
- Proposals for capital expenses (e.g. outdoor structures, gathering areas, landscaping, benches, etc.).
- Proposals to fund core operating costs.
- Proposals that are entertainment-focused, as this does not align with the educational and commemorative purpose of Orange Shirt Day (e.g. facepainting, fireworks/drone shows, bouncy castles, etc.).
- Proposals that duplicate or overlap with existing programming (e.g. activities that fall primarily within the mandate of other department programming or jurisdictions).
- Proposals to support Section 35 Crown consultations.

HOW MUCH WE FUND

Funding levels are determined based on the scope, scale, and demonstrated need of each proposal. No more than 25 per cent of the proposed budget should be for the purchase of Orange Shirts or related apparel. Applicants should request the amount required to successfully deliver their project. Larger proposals exceeding \$25,000 may be considered if they demonstrate strong commitment, meaningful partnerships, and the potential for exceptional regional or provincial impact.

WHO CAN APPLY

- First Nation, Red River Métis and Inuit governments, communities and organizations
- Northern Affairs communities
- Schools and school divisions
- Non-profit* and for-profit organizations that:
 - have been in existence for at least one year;
 - are active; and
 - are current in its filings under The Corporations Act (Manitoba).
- Registered charities (under the Income Tax Act)
- Individuals and unincorporated organizations may apply with the endorsement of an eligible non-profit, for-profit or charitable organization (see list above). In these cases, funding will be issued through the eligible organization.

**A non-profit organization is an organization organized and operated exclusively for social welfare, civic improvement, pleasure, recreation, or any other purpose except profit.*

Please note that any organizations/individuals previously awarded funding from the Manitoba Indigenous Reconciliation Secretariat (MIRS) will be required to submit any outstanding deliverables (i.e.: final program or financial reports) on previous years' projects before any new proposal under this fund is considered.

WHEN TO APPLY

The application deadline is **11:59 p.m., June 21, 2026**. Late or incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

Successful applicants will generally be notified within seven to eight weeks following the application deadline.

HOW TO APPLY

Electronic application forms can be found on Manitoba's [Orange Shirt Day website](#).

If you are unable to complete the electronic application form, please contact the Manitoba Indigenous Reconciliation Secretariat by phone or e-mail:

Phone:

204-945-7569

E-Mail:

OrangeShirtDayFund@gov.mb.ca

Attn: Orange Shirt Day Fund 2026

PROPOSAL ASSESSMENT

Proposals are assessed against:

- Completion of application requirements
- Eligibility criteria (refer to “What We Fund” section)
- How the proposal aligns with the Fund Objectives

Other considerations may include geographic representation, inclusion of residential school Survivors, innovative projects, applicants who identify extraordinary need for provincial funding support, proposals that demonstrate meaningful inclusion of the local First Nation, Métis or Inuit community leadership and its members, proposals that incorporate culturally relevant approaches to truth and reconciliation, proposals that identify exceptional regional or provincial impact and proposals that prioritize use of Indigenous businesses and vendors in their event delivery.

HOW DECISIONS ARE MADE

A Review Committee manages the proposal intake, assessment process and recommends projects for final approval.

- Generally, successful applicants will be notified of the grant within seven to eight weeks of the application deadline.
- Successful applicants will be notified of the decision by letter, including the next steps in the funding process.
- Unsuccessful applicants will be notified of the decision by letter.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Approved proposals will require a project grant funding agreement signed by the applicant and Manitoba.
- Approved projects will require commercial general liability insurance.
- Project agreements will outline the terms, insurance requirements, acceptable use of funds, project end date, payment process, treatment of project surplus or deficit and reporting requirements.

PAYMENT PROCESS

- 75 per cent of the approved funding will be provided after signing the grant funding agreement. Holdbacks will not be required for proposals valued at less than \$5,000.
- The remaining 25 per cent will be provided following project completion, and submission and acceptance of a final report and signed financial report.
- The percentage of initial funding and holdback may be adjusted on a case-by-case basis.

REPORTING ON OUTCOMES AND RESULTS

- Final reporting is required within 90 days of project completion or by the final deadline identified in the grant funding agreement, whichever is sooner. As part of the package, the financial report and the final report must be completed in full. Final payment will not be issued until both reporting documents have been accepted and approved by Manitoba.
- The final report may be supplemented with personal stories, narratives and photos to demonstrate project deliverables and outcomes. The lead organization/individual is responsible for obtaining consent to publicly disclose this information and/or photos.
- If the project has been endorsed by an eligible organization or government (refer to “Who Can Apply”), the certified financial report must be completed by the endorsing organization or government. The balance of the final report requirements must be completed by the project lead (i.e. the individual or unincorporated non-profit).
- Project proponents who do not submit a final report and/or certified financial report may not be eligible for future funding from the Manitoba Indigenous Reconciliation Secretariat.

CONTACT US

Phone:

204-945-7569

Email:

OrangeShirtDayFund@gov.mb.ca

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**This document is available in other formats upon request.*