



**AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION LOCAL 113**  
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All correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary-Treasurer

September 23, 2021

Via E-Mail Only

Richard Leary  
Chief Executive Officer  
Toronto Transit Commission  
1900 Yonge Street, 7th Floor  
Toronto ON M4S 1Z2

Dear Mr. Leary:

**Re: Commemorating the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation | Orange Shirt Day on September 30**

I am writing to bring to your attention the need for the TTC to commemorate the **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation** by taking action to create awareness about the impact of the Residential Schools System on Indigenous Peoples across Canada, and the cultural genocide that resulted. Towards this purpose, our Indigenous Members wish to commemorate this day by wearing orange shirts to mark the Orange Shirt Day, as this commemoration was known and marked by across Canada since 2013.

The Union is requesting that any Indigenous or non-Indigenous member who wishes to participate, should be permitted to wear orange shirts or t-shirts at their work locations and while at work, to mark the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation | Orange shirt Day on September 30, 2021. The Union also urges the TTC to take a progressive role and make this a company wide policy, to show solidarity with all Indigenous Peoples.

Every year on September 30th, people across Canada wear orange and participate in Orange Shirt Day events to recognize and raise awareness about the harsh history and legacy of the Residential School System in Canada. Orange Shirt Day originates from the story of Phyllis Webstad from the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation. In 1973, on her first day at St. Joseph's Residential School in Williams Lake, BC. Her new orange shirt was stripped from her. Forty years later, on September 30th, 2013, Phyllis spoke publicly for the first time about her experience, beginning the Orange Shirt Day movement.

The Canadian government designated September 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, beginning in 2021. This responds to Truth and Reconciliation Call to

Action 80, which states that the federal government will work with Indigenous people to establish a statutory day 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”.

This is a time for action and an opportunity for the TTC to demonstrate leadership in Ontario by joining those who recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, on September 30, 2021, to honour First Nations, Inuit and Métis Survivors and their families and communities, and to ensure the public commemoration of the tragic history and destructive legacies of colonization and the residential schools. This is a vital component of the reconciliation process for our Indigenous Sisters and Brothers.

We look forward to hearing from you about the steps to implement this request at the earliest possible.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carlos Santos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carlos Santos  
President/Business Agent

CS:rc

cc: Rick Fox  
Kevin Morton  
Tamara Goulding – ATU 113 Indigenous Members Circle  
Brent Peltier – ATU 113 Indigenous Members Circle  
Sheldon Morriseau – ATU 113 Indigenous Members Circle  
Mike Judd – ATU 113 Indigenous Members Circle  
Megan MacRae – Executive Director – Human Resources  
Mary Madigan-Lee – Chief People Officer  
Keisha Campbell – Chief Diversity and Culture Officer