



MEMORANDUM

To: All Faculties, Units, and Departments of Western University
From: Western's Office of Indigenous Initiatives
Date: May 27, 2025
Subject: Observance of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (NDTR) – September 30, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

The annual observance of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (NDTR) will be held on Tuesday, September 30, 2025, with events spanning the entire week of September 29 to October 3. Upon this solemn observance, every individual at Western will be called upon to remember the Indigenous peoples who perished at Residential Schools, and honour and acknowledge the survivors, their families and communities, and the intergenerational trauma and legacy that persists today.

Observance of the NDTR aligns solidly with the goals outlined in Western's [Indigenous Strategic Plan](#) and its [institutional strategic plan](#) to foster a culture of equity, diversity, and inclusion as directed by [94 Calls to Action of Canada Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#). As such, everyone at Western is hereby called upon to provide, support, and participate within meaningful and transformative learning opportunities that help to “*advance reconciliation with Indigenous communities.*”¹

Indigenous Allyship central advancing Reconciliation

Allies are required to come alongside Indigenous peoples (not in front of) and help to dismantle systemic barriers and inequities that marginalize and harm everyone. Your help as an ally is essential in many ways, such as:

- upholding Indigenous rights that are protected and enshrined in the Treaties, in legislation such as the Canadian Constitution, and in Human Rights instruments such as the [UNDRIP](#); and
- amplifying and elevating Indigenous voices, worldviews, and knowledges as they possess the propensity to address many persistent and complex challenges created by colonialism.

Indigenous allyship involves listening, learning, understanding, and taking meaningful actions to support Indigenous peoples and communities, as per their own determination. As an institution touted for advancing education, **everyone at Western has a responsibility to embrace allyship and advance the work of reconciliation**. For explicit guidance on Indigenous allyship, please access resources on the Office of Indigenous Initiatives (OII) website, [here](#).

NDTR Guidance and Resources

Over the past four years, your Indigenous colleagues across the campus have largely coordinated and led the observance of NDTR through various events and activities. The OII has developed and provided multiple resources for guidance and support in observing the NDTR (e.g., toolkits, checklists, workshops, resources, lists of current and archived events, etc.) to ensure that planned activities and programming are appropriate and follow Indigenous protocols. We have modeled examples of thoughtful and impactful observances such as educational workshops and community gatherings to further understanding and grow solidarity within and beyond the Western community. Examples of previous events can be found on the NDTR tab of the OII website, [here](#).

¹ Theme 2 – People, Community, and Culture, in [Towards Western at 150](#).

With a goal to advance reconciliation through Indigenous allyship, the OII is calling on everyone at Western to actively support this year's NDTR observance with your energy, time, ingenuity, and robust participation.

Please also be mindful to also support the NDTR events and other initiatives led by our local Indigenous communities and organizations as listed below:

- [Deshkan Zibing \(Chippewas of the Thames First Nation\)](#)
- [Onyota'a: ka, the People of the Standing Stone \(Oneida of the Thames First Nation\)](#)
- [Lenni Lenape \(Munsee-Delaware Nation\)](#)
- [N'Amerind Friendship Center](#) (London, Ontario)
- [Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Center](#) (SOAHAC)

Appreciation for your Allyship

Your commitment to growing and expanding awareness, justice, and healing through allyship at the upcoming NDTR observation and everyday across Western is essential to inciting and leveraging social improvements. At Western, we need everyone—all students, staff, faculty, and external partners—to engage in meaningful events that foster awareness, education, and healing, because reconciliation with each other and the Earth requires collective effort and resolute action.

Please share with us details of your anticipated NDTR events to indigenousinitiatives@uwo.ca so we may help to promote awareness and participation.

Miigwech, Yaw^ko, Anushiik (Thank you) for your support,

*Your colleagues in
the [Office of Indigenous Initiatives](#)*