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# MESSAGE

**On behalf of the Council of the Cree Nation of Chisasibi, Chief Daisy House wishes to deliver the following message to mark the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation:**

*“Truth* has been a main theme in 2022, as our community made the painful decision to reclaim our history by moving forward with a ground search at the sites of the former Residential Schools in Fort George.

The collective strength of our community allowed this decision, which made headlines – locally, regionally, provincially, nationally, *even internationally*. This could not have been possible without the wisdom and guidance of Survivors, victors, and former students. We lift them up today.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> officially recognized National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, we celebrate our resiliency as *Eeyouch*, while remembering those we lost and those who were taken. Today, we pray for those who are struggling with the truths of the past and intergenerational trauma.

But remember that today is also a day to look back and acknowledge how far we’ve come. In 2022, we remain a people who live a way of life rooted in Cree customs and traditions. Today, we think of our Ancestors who – through perseverance and strength – resisted colonialism and challenged systems which led us to embrace our culture the way we do today.

Today is not a day to be spent alone. We encourage you to spend the day with friends and loved ones at our local celebratory events.

We understand that this may be a delicate time for some, as the symbol of the orange shirt is a reminder of what happened to children in residential schools. If you need support, we encourage you to reach out to a loved one, call the Wiichihiiwaauin Helpline at **1-833-632-4357** or connect with the National Indian Residential School Crisis Line at **1-866-925-4419.**”

**FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF**

Friday, September 30, 2022