



TRIBAL LAW AND POLICY INSTITUTE

Serving Native Communities Since 1996

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To Our Circle of Supporters,

The [Tribal Law and Policy Institute \(TLPI\)](#) and its staff join Indigenous communities in Canada in honoring [Orange Shirt Day](#) held annually on September 30th and in the U.S. we honor this September 30th as a [National Day of Remembrance for U.S. Indian Boarding Schools](#).

We hold Boarding School and Residential School survivors, victims, and families and tribes in prayer along with the generations of families affected by the inhumane and genocidal practice of government-sponsored child and family separation. Together, we must re-center and reclaim the value of all Indigenous children's lives.

As an organization, [we acknowledge that colonization happened](#) and continues in some forms today. We support calls for accountability to past boarding school practices, including the National Congress of American Indian [Resolution #PHX-16-063: Call for the United States to Acknowledge its Role in the U.S. Boarding School Policy and to Account for the American Indian and Alaska Native Children Who did not Survive as a Result](#) and [Resolution #MOH-17-014: Call to Collect Testimony about the American Indian and Alaska Native Children Who went Missing under U.S. Boarding School Policy](#), to ensure our children are not forgotten. We support Secretary Deb Haaland's [Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative](#) and the creation of a Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policy as expressed in the American Bar Association's latest call to Congress, [Resolution 801, 2021 Annual Meeting](#).

In recognition of our shared trauma, we hope we will heal and leave the next seven generations a promising message. Together, we will continue to be the advocates for our children, elders, and community, co-creating a future in which our people are held in sacred, joyous, and life-affirming equity. When we wipe the tears today, we wipe the tears of our ancestors.

To assist with practicing self-care during this time, here is a trauma responses [resource list from the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition](#).

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To learn more about First Nations and Native American boarding school experiences and healing-informed efforts, here is a short-list of resources:

- 1) The story of Phyllis Webstad whose story about her new orange shirt inspired the yearly commemoration movement called “Orange Shirt Day:”
<https://www.orangeshirtday.org/phyllis-story.html>
- 2) The nonprofit Orange Shirt Day has a website with more information on boarding school and survivor experiences: <https://www.orangeshirtday.org/about-us.html>
- 3) The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition also has information for United States boarding schools healing efforts: <https://boardingschoolhealing.org/healing/healing-voices-movement/>
- 4) The U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Secretary Deb Haaland wrote about her grandparent’s experience in an op-ed for the Washington Post:
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/06/11/deb-haaland-indigenous-boarding-schools/>
- 5) American Bar Association Calls on Congress to Investigate Indian Boarding Schools: [Full ABA Boarding School Resolution and Report](#) and [Video of the Debate on the ABA Boarding School Resolution](#)

In community,

Tribal Law and Policy Institute