September 30 — National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Come take action by joining us in Truth & Reconciliation for the Non-Indigenous: A Spiritual Exercise for Personal Discovery. If you have ever felt a loss in understanding the meaning of this day; If you struggle with the Christian Churches' along with the government's involvement with the history of the Indigenous peoples; If you feel compelled to DO SOMETHING positive on this National Day for Truth and Reconciliation but don't know what you can do, then gather with us in prayer, reflection and meditation.

Join us in one of two locations: Anishinabe Spiritual Centre (Espanola) – Meditation @ 9:30am with Sunrise Ceremony in Teepee 7am. Elder available all day 10-hour Adoration at the Centre from 8am-6pm (drop-in) or at Villa Loyola (Sudbury) – Meditation @ 2pm; Adoration Noon-4pm . Hospitality available throughout the day at each location.

All Welcome! Registration is preferred, Donations gratefully accepted. Chi-Miigwetch!!

For more information, contact the Anishinabe Spiritual Centre, 705-869-4994, anishinabe.acct@gmail.com

You can also take the opportunity to pray on this day, a special prayer by Joseph Chiwatenhwa, first lay administrator in the Catholic Church in Canada in 1639.

Prayer by Joseph Chiwatenhwa (in part)

O God, at last I start to understand you. You made the earth, which we live in. You made the sky, which we see above us. You made us, we who are called people. Now you let me start to know who you really are. I know how to make a canoe, and how to enjoy it. I know how to build a cabin and how to live in it. But you, you made us, and you live in us. The things we make last for a few seasons. We only use the canoes we create for a short time. We only live in the houses we build for a few years. But your love for us will endure so long that we cannot count the time. You will comfort us forever. As long as we live, how can anyone not acknowledge you? You are the one who protects us. The time we feel your presence the most is when we face death. You are the one with the power to keep our souls alive, because only you know how to love us in the deepest part of ourselves. Not even a mother or father can love a human being the way you do. Your love for us is so strong that it makes evil spirits lose their power. Now I begin to see that the reason you made us is because you want to share your love. Nothing attracts you as much as your people. Thank you for letting me understand you. You love us so deeply that all I can do in return is offer myself to you. I claim you as my elder and chief. There is no one else. Ask me for anything you want. Just let me always hold you in my heart. I always want to feel you watching and protecting me.

Joseph Chiwatenhwa helped the Jesuits translate hymns and prayers from French into Huron. He was impressed with the teachings of Saint Ignatius and the ***Spiritual Exercises****. During his eight-day silent retreat, he composed a prayer that reveals his profound experience with Jesus: "****You love us so deeply that all I can do in return is to offer myself to you. I chose you as my elder and chief. There is no one else.****" In adopting his new faith, Joseph drew on many of the spiritual and cultural teachings of his people; he entered the Catholic Church as a Huron. This helped him spread the Good News to many members of his family and tribe.*

What can you do on September 30? Participate in Orange Shirt Day! The orange shirt has become a symbol of hope, reconciliation and a commitment to a better future. By wearing an orange shirt on September 30th, you make a statement to support reconciliation and commit to the enduring truth that EVERY CHILD MATTERS. Go to Pow Wows, support local Indigenous artists, crafters. Stop by and volunteer at your local Friendship Centre—North Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre—980 Cassells Street).

Attend and support

Walk a mile in an Indigenous person's moccasins and you will become less fearful, less judgmental of this misunderstood life. Learn the traditional way! You will begin to see how beautiful the culture truly is! Laughter, teasing, praying daily, giving thanks are all a part of this beautiful **culture.**

You are Invited!
North Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre
Monday, September 30th
10:00 AM
North Bay Waterfront Band Stand
(Rain or Shine)
Opening Ceremony
Awareness Walk along the Waterfront
Followed By
Afternoon activities at the
North Bay Indigenous Hub
Everyone Welcome!