



**OTTAWA ABORIGINAL COALITION**  
100-1155 Lola Street, Ottawa, ON K1K4C1

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**Media Release**  
**February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**The Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition condemns the misappropriation of Orange Shirt Day by the  
convoy occupiers**

*“The Orange Shirt Society does not endorse the recent announcement of Orange Shirt Day occurring on February 11 by protest organizers.”*

We stand with Phyllis Webstad, the founder of Orange Shirt Day. The OAC strongly condemns the misappropriation of Orange Shirt Day. We have seen continuous misappropriation and inappropriate use of Indigenous practices and messages throughout this protest.

As organizations serving the Indigenous community in Ottawa on a daily basis we are very aware that the protest is adversely impacting many members of our community. They are afraid to leave their homes because they have been subjected to harassment and violence, some community members have not had access to needed services; and some people have not been able to go to their jobs.

The racism we have seen as part of the protests has profoundly impacted the mental health of Indigenous community members, including our Elders. It has created a sense of vulnerability in our community. If the protesters understand the historical significance of Orange Shirt Day then they know that it has no place in the midst of a protest.

We recognize that there are Indigenous community members supporting the protest because they want an end to COVID and to the mandates. We are confident that they would not be supporting any of harms that we have seen in our community.

There is only one Orange Shirt Day and that is September 30<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to sharing that day with you - on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

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