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**In honour of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation,
Please wear orange to Danceworks classes this week.**



September 28 through October 1

Hi Danceworks Family,

This week, we will be taking time in each of our classes to recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and to honour the Survivors of residential schools, the children who never returned home, and the families and communities who continue to carry the effects of these institutions today.

Dance and artistic expression are deeply connected to culture, identity, storytelling, ceremony, and community. Indigenous peoples have rich and diverse traditions of movement and dance that were suppressed and, in some circumstances, explicitly prohibited as part of broader efforts to assimilate Indigenous peoples and erase their cultural practices. Ceremonial practices, including the Sun Dance, were targeted by Canadian authorities as part of these policies of cultural suppression.

As a dance school, this is something we feel particularly strongly about. We recognize that we have benefited from a largely Eurocentric dance tradition and from privileges that many Indigenous people were deliberately denied. We cannot change what happened, but we can choose what we do with that understanding.

That is one reason we have chosen to remain open on Wednesday; to use our studio as a place where every child and every person is welcome to express

themselves, share their stories, explore their identity, and experience the freedom and joy of movement.

Our decision to continue classes on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is not a dismissal or devaluing of the significance of this day or the horrors experienced through the residential school system. Rather, we want to use our time together intentionally.

Throughout this week, our teachers will incorporate age-appropriate land acknowledgements and conversations about freedom of expression, identity, culture, and what it means to be able to dance your truth.

For our dancers, we hope to nurture a world in which children are encouraged to be proud of who they are, where they come from, the languages they speak, the cultures they belong to, and the stories they carry.

This week, we wear orange to remember.

We listen to learn.

And we dance with the freedom that every child deserves.

Please wear orange to classes from September 28 through October 1 as a small visible gesture of support for Every Child Matters and in honour of residential school Survivors and those who never returned home. ❤️

Thank you for being part of the Danceworks family and for helping us create a studio where all people are welcomed, valued, and encouraged to express themselves.

With love,
Danceworks Dance Academy

Let's Dance. ❤️



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