

How To Host Your Own Book Club For National Day For Truth & Reconciliation



September 30th, known as National Day for Truth & Reconciliation (NDTR) and Orange Shirt Day, is a time to honour Survivors, families, and communities affected by residential schools and to pause and reflect on the ongoing impacts of colonization.



Want to host a National Day for Truth & Reconciliation Book Club in your organization but not sure where to start?

Consider the following to help you host a book club in a good way:

Choose a Book That Centers Indigenous Voices & Experiences

- When choosing a book for NDTR, it's important to ensure the selection honours Indigenous voices and experiences.
 - One way to do this is by choosing a book that is both written and illustrated by an Indigenous author.
 - Other helpful considerations for a book club pick are that it's relatively short, easy to read, and readily available for participants to access.
- Examples of books written by Indigenous authors:
 - *Ally is a Verb* by Rose Lemay
 - *21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act* by Bob Joseph
 - *Five Little Indians* by Michelle Good



Outline Your Purpose For Hosting This Book Club

- Understand the importance of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation & share this with your workplace in your book club invite email.
- Emphasize that this is a space for learning, not expertise and no prior knowledge is required; just a willingness to learn, reflect, and participate in respectful discussion.



Invite Participants & Set a Timeline

- Distribute an invitation encouraging participants to read the selected book and join the book club.
- Provide 3 – 4 weeks between the invitation and the discussion meeting to allow adequate time for reading.
- Send out a calendar invite for the scheduled discussion meeting.



For more information from the Alberta Recreation & Parks Association, visit: arpaonline.ca

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Prepare For The Discussion Meeting

- Develop discussion questions and prompts, and share them with participants in advance to support reflection and preparation.
- **Discussion Questions Examples:**
 - *What was your key takeaway from the book? Why did this take-away stand out to you?*
 - *How does the book connect to the work that you do?*
 - *If the book presents solutions or strategies, how might you apply them in your own life or work?*
 - *What questions or curiosities do you still have after reading this book? What would you like to explore further?*
- Prepare materials and facilitation notes for the discussion meeting.



Host The Book Club Discussion Meeting (Virtual Or In Person)

- Consider who will be your audience and what you can do to create a respectful and safe space.
 - When appropriate, you may also wish to incorporate cultural practices such as smudging. Our resource [Smudging in Recreation Settings](#) can support you in determining whether smudging is a good fit for your book club.
- Encourage listening and curiosity over debate.
- Acknowledge the emotional nature of the topic and let people opt in/out of participating fully. Avoid calling on specific people to share their reflections and instead open the floor to allow people to share as they feel safe to.



Reflect On The Book Club

- Consider writing a short summary or reflection to share with staff or leadership.
- Acknowledge that reconciliation is ongoing, and that this book club is just a step to furthering your continuous reconciliation journey.



Further Your Reconciliation Journey

Check Out Our Walking With Indigenous Communities Program

There is no end to this important work; it is ongoing. Let's work together to turn words into meaningful action and long-lasting change! We encourage you to continue your reconciliation journey beyond the month of September by visiting our [Walking With Indigenous Communities](#) page for various resources and videos. Visit: arpaonline.ca/program/walking-with-indigenous-communities/



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