Our office will be closed for September 30 to respect the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a day to recognize and commemorate the legacy of residential schools, and Orange Shirt Day, which is an opportunity to create meaningful discussion about the effects of residential schools and the legacy they have left behind. As recognized by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, between the 1870s and 1997, more than 150,000 First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children were forced to attend residential schools. Although the Canadian Federal Government has accepted legal responsibility for 139 residential schools in the Indian Residential School Survivor Settlement, it is estimated that 1,300 such schools existed in Canada. Currently, estimates from 11 residential schools have found approximately 1,794 children, whose tragic deaths while attending residential schools were unacceptable and unnecessary. The true figure could exceed 15,000. Each of these deaths demands accountability and action from child welfare agencies, the government of Ontario and the federal government.

As child protection defence counsel, [**INSERT THE NAME OF YOUR FIRM**] recognizes the colonialist history of the child welfare system in Ontario and in Canada as the inheritor of the residential school system. We will be reflecting on and taking action on this day and encourage you to join us in wearing an orange shirt and raising awareness about the Every Child Matters campaign. You can find more information here: [https://www.orangeshirtday.org](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.orangeshirtday.org%2f&c=E,1,Wt3zYuWEmmw1SWSDFUi_E9ha3l6H9cW9v3YWaTJhiSP5dHcKKoa501cbwUOs2_11yEJBhWtCIpvcNDzV3kp_nMHY6VTd0AwYAXiiwAsDTq8eXKz2CP2RPQ,,&typo=1).