



**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER**  
UNIVERSITY

To the campus community,

This week, StFX will recognize the inaugural National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Thursday, Sept. 30, and Treaty Day on Friday, Oct. 1. I'd like to take a moment to convey the importance of these days to StFX as a community and to all Nova Scotians as we come together to commemorate and reflect on the historical injustices inflicted on Indigenous people and the repercussions that continue to this day.

On Thursday, in collaboration with local Mi'kmaw partners and the StFX Indigenous Affairs Office, StFX will mark the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation with a ceremony in the Joyce Family Atrium in Mulronev Hall. As part of this ceremony, participants will contribute to an installation of 6,000-plus ribbons, representing the 6,000+ children who lost their lives in the residential school system. This installation will be on display at Alumni Plaza through the month of October. Anyone wishing to tie a ribbon is welcome to do so. The event begins at 11 a.m. and is open to the public. Participants are encouraged to wear orange to show their solidarity. Please be aware that space will be limited as we continue to follow COVID-19 guidelines.

That afternoon at 3 p.m., University Chaplain, Fr. Donald MacGillivray, will host Mi'kmaw Elder Katy McKean in a discussion of Native spirituality. All are welcome to attend the talk at the University Chapel. Finally, beginning Thursday evening, key areas on campus will also be lit in orange out of respect for the day and to recognize October as Mi'kmaq History Month.

While September 30<sup>th</sup> is a day of quiet contemplation, Treaty Day, on Friday October 1<sup>st</sup>, marks the beginning of Mi'kmaq History Month, a time to celebrate and create awareness of Mi'kmaw heritage and culture. Please visit a Treaty Day Booth, set up outside the Angus L. Macdonald Library, Alumni Plaza, Xavier Gardens, and the Keating Centre where you can fill out a card on what being a Treaty person means to you. Treaty readings by students will take place in these locations between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

I'm also encouraging the community to participate in the many other events celebrating Mi'kmaq History Month, including those held in Kiknu, our Indigenous Student Centre.

As a community that aspires to be fair and equitable, this is a time for us, as Xaverians, to listen and learn. It is a time for us to focus and think about the work that we can do on an individual and collective basis, to take reconciliation efforts forward.

I want to thank all who have worked behind the scenes to organize the many events that will occur during October. I truly hope all students, employees and community members will take

the opportunities to gain a meaningful, deeper understanding of this land's history including the history and culture of the Mi'kmaw and other Indigenous communities.

Mṣṭ wiaqulti'kl ankukamkewe'l | We are all Treaty People.

Andy

**ANDY HAKIN**

**PRESIDENT & VICE-CHANCELLOR**

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I acknowledge that StFX is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.