

## 1. Chief Doctor Robert Joseph



<https://indspire.ca/laureate/chief-robert-joseph-2/>

Chief Doctor Robert Joseph, O. B. C., is a hereditary chief of the Gwawaenuk First Nation who upholds a life dedicated to bridging the differences brought about by intolerance, lack of understanding, and racism at home and abroad. He is the Ambassador for Reconciliation Canada, and a member of the National Assembly of First Nations Elders Council, was awarded the Order of British Columbia in 2015, and recipient of Indspire's Lifetime Achievement award in 2016.

### 3. **Alanis Obomsawin**

Alanis Obomsawin, OC, GOQ, filmmaker, singer, artist, storyteller. One of Canada's most distinguished documentary filmmakers, Alanis Obomsawin began her career as a professional singer and storyteller before joining the National Film Board of Canada (NFB) in 1967. Her award-winning films address the struggles of Indigenous peoples in Canada from their perspective, giving prominence to voices that have long fallen on deaf ears. An Officer of the Order of Canada and a Grand Officer of the National Order of Québec, she has received the Prix Albert-Tessier and the Canadian Screen Awards' Humanitarian Award, as well as multiple Governor General's Awards, lifetime achievement awards and honorary degrees.



## 4. Shannen Koostachin



Shannen's Dream, named in loving memory of Shannen Koostachin, is about making sure that First Nations children and youth have the same education opportunities as others but in ways that respect their language and culture and takes into account that they may not be starting from the same place. Shannen Koostachin, her classmates, and their community of Attawapiskat fought for a new school for over three decades after a diesel spill near the school that was making students and teachers sick. Shannen sadly passed away in 2010 and never saw the new school that was built in 2014. With the support of her loving family, friends and community, Shannen's Dream was named in her honour because Shannen believed that all children deserved to go to a good school. [Learn more about Shannen and Attawapiskat.](#)



Shannon Koostachin Elementary School



Memorial to Shannen



A Documentary by Alanis Obomsawin

## 4. Phyllis Webstad



The Orange Shirt story and Orange Shirt Day movement was begun by Phyllis (Jack) Webstad after she told her story of her first day at residential school when her shiny new orange shirt, bought by her grandmother, was taken from her as a six-year old girl.

The annual Orange Shirt Day on September 30th opens the door to global conversation on all aspects of Residential Schools. It is an opportunity to create meaningful discussion about the effects of Residential Schools and the legacy they have left behind. A discussion all Canadians can tune into and create bridges with each other for reconciliation. A day for survivors to be reaffirmed that they matter, and so do those that have been affected. Every Child Matters, even if they are an adult, from now on.



<https://www.orangeshirtday.org/orange-shirt-society.html>

## 5. Brianna Jonnie

Brianna Jonnie's letter to Winnipeg politicians and police in 2016 went viral and made headlines when she called for a change in the way Indigenous missing and murdered women's cases are handled in comparison to non-Indigenous missing person cases. Her letter earned her a conversation with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to discuss her concerns.

Her letter has been turned into a graphic novel. Jonnie said "she hopes the book will have the biggest impact on students. Her high school years involved some experiences with racism, even from classmates she considered friends. Her goal is that when students like her read the book, they will understand the perspective of an Indigenous person and they realize it was written by a youth like them. Hopefully it changes something more positive for them"

<https://globalnews.ca/news/6284559/indigenous-teen-graphic-novel/>

