



FORMER RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL IN KAMLOOPS

Mourning our lost children

Learning last week that 215 children were found buried on the site of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School is a tragedy that has rocked our community, country and world.

Chief Rosanne Casimir, along with leadership of Tk'emlups te Secwepemc First Nation, has taken on the heavy burden of caretaking for these lost children.

This tragedy is another reminder of the important work done by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and of how much more work true reconciliation requires.

There are several calls to action in the commission's report pertaining to the deaths of children in residential school care, including one asking for the Federal Government



Conservative Leader Erin O'Toole and I paid our respects Monday at a growing memorial in Ottawa. Memorials emerged across Canada to honour the victims found at the former residential school in Kamloops.

to work with churches and Indigenous leaders to inform the families of children who died at residential schools of the child's burial location, and to respond to families' wishes for commemoration ceremonies and markers, and reburial in home communities where requested.



The full report can be read at: www.trc.ca/about-us/trc-findings.html

A 24-hour National Indian Residential School Crisis Line has been set up to provide support for former residential school students and those affected at 1-866-925-4419, and B.C. has the

KUU-US Crisis Line Society support line at 1-800-588-8717.

My heart breaks thinking of all the loving parents who never saw their children return home, who were never granted the dignity of knowing what happened.

Your loss will never be forgotten.

Celebrating Indigenous Peoples in Canada

While we reflect during this time of grieving, we must also celebrate the resiliency, rich culture, heritage and achievements of our First

Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

This June 21 is the 25th anniversary of National Indigenous People's Day in Canada, announced in

1996 by then Governor General of Canada, Roméo LeBlanc.

To allow Canadians to celebrate this special day safely at home this year,

there are stories, mystery messages to decode, and many activities to be found at www.rcaanc-cir-nac.gc.ca/eng/1528210353182/1580759773150