



BC Aboriginal  
Child Care Society

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## Standing in grief with Tk'emlups te Secwépemc Nation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**COAST SALISH TERRITORY/ VANCOUVER** – The BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS) stands in grief and solidarity with Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Nation families following the news of the discovery of the remains of 215 children buried on the Kamloops Indian Residential School grounds.

We hold our hands up to Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc for never giving up. We honour the stolen children and all the ancestors who have been lost to murder and violence. We walk with you along the path to healing.

BCACCS calls on Canada to do more than just acknowledge these stolen children as an atrocity. The federal government must take real and meaningful action to immediately implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission calls to action 71-76.

"Prayers and kind thoughts are not enough. These children died without family, respect, or dignity. There needs to be a sincere commitment to the immediate implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples by the federal government and funding made available to uphold the Truth and Reconciliation calls to action to provide justice and accountability for all children and families," said Karen Isaac, BCACCS Executive Director.

Although this discovery has galvanized national attention to a legacy of disappearance and loss that is well known to First Nations, Inuit and Métis families and communities it is important to remember that this is not a thing of the past.

"There is an enduring legacy of Canadian negligence and genocide. Residential School Survivors and their families continue to deal with intergenerational traumas. Indigenous children continue to be lost and taken from their families. There needs to be action, not lip service, and admission of Canada's obligation to uncover the truth and prevent further harm," said Mary Teegee, BCACCS Board President.

Residential schools were designed by Canada to strip First Nations children of their identity, culture, family and community. One way to help heal families is to create strong foundations for the youngest generation. BCACCS has been authorized by the BC First Nations Leadership Council to be the coordinating body for the implementation of the national Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care (IELCC) Framework in BC. The framework supports IELCC capacity, quality, access, and self-determination of needs among First Nations and other Indigenous communities in BC. The Indigenous early learning and child care programs of today are dedicated to immersing young Indigenous children in their culture and language, and accessing knowledge and worldview from Elders and traditional teachings and ways. If well-funded, these

programs can also support families to reclaim and strengthen pride and confidence in their parenting roles.

BCACCS will continue to work with First Nation leadership and community members, provincial and federal governments, and Indigenous early childhood educators in their communities to support high quality and culturally safe programs, revitalize and build local capacity, positive structural and systems changes to ensure all Indigenous children, their families, cultures and nations, thrive and flourish.

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BCACCS is committed to nurturing excellence through community outreach, education, research, and advocacy to ensure every Aboriginal child in BC has access to spiritually enriching, culturally relevant, high quality early childhood development and care services. [Link to BCACCS website](#)

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