



June 29, 2021

**The First Peoples' Cultural Council and the First Peoples' Cultural Foundation urge provincial and federal governments to increase support for residential school burial searches.**

[WJOLÉLP](#), UNCEDED TERRITORY OF WSÁNEĆ NATION / BRENTWOOD BAY, B.C.–

The First Peoples' Cultural Council ([FPCC](#)) and the First Peoples' Cultural Foundation ([FPCF](#)) stand together with First Nations, Métis and Inuit as we grieve the discoveries of unmarked graves at Kamloops Indian Residential School, Cowessess First Nation and other places across the country. Although it lifts us up to see non-Indigenous Canadians show their support and seek to act in reconciliation, the devastating impacts of colonialism and the federal government's systemic racism, cultural assimilation and genocide have disrupted families for generations and there is still much to do to right these past wrongs.

The Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action articles 71-76 list the actions to address missing children and burials at residential schools. We urge federal and provincial governments to implement all of these recommendations immediately and address the concerns and needs of First Nations by increasing their support with resources and funding as this work continues.

The work that the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc have done to find their little ones is incredible, but no First Nation should have to carry the burden of acquiring funding and engaging in this work on their own. Those who are responsible for these tragedies have a moral obligation to support the efforts to return these children to their communities. FPCC and FPCF continue to support the revitalization of Indigenous arts, First Nations languages, and cultural heritage in B.C. to restore what was taken by the residential school system. We will support B.C. First Nations in any way we can to ensure that this work moves forward in a good way.

In the [Ucwalmícwts](#) language of the Lił'wat7úl people we ask that tcwemstwal' lhkál'ap "you folks take care of one another." To care for one another also means to understand, support, protect and share what you have with others. We hope all levels of government and church leadership will hear this message and respond with action to support Indigenous communities as they undertake this work to find and return their ancestors from these sites of trauma.

**COMMITTED TO THE REVITALIZATION OF B.C.'S INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES, ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE**