



## **Lets'emot C2C Statement on the Missing Children of the Kamloops Indian Residential School**

June 1, 2021

The Lets'emot Community to Community Forum (C2C), is comprised of the leadership of various Upper Fraser Valley communities including the Cheam First Nation, Seabird Island Band, Sq'ewlets First Nation, Stó:lō Tribal Council, the Sts'ailes Nation, the District of Kent and the Village of Harrison Hot Springs.

The Lets'emot C2C extend our support and condolences to the families, Nations and Indian Residential School survivors who are impacted by the confirmation of the burial site of 215 undocumented children at the grounds of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School last week. The C2C stands with all First Nations in seeking the truth and finding accountability for the missing children in all former residential school sites across Canada. We honour the lives and the survivors and support the necessary work required to have the children returned to their families and communities with proper protocol. We understand that this includes our family and communities at the C2C.

The C2C have lowered our flags in shared grief and to pay our respects to the children of the Kamloops Indian Residential School, their families and communities. We call on the federal government to implement all Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, specifically Calls #71 - 76 regarding Missing Children and Burial Information.

More specifically the C2C call upon the federal government to allocate sufficient resources to develop and maintain a National Residential School Student Death Register and include the provision of Calls to Action 9, appropriate memorial ceremonies and commemorative markers to honour the deceased children. We further call on the government and the parties engaged in the work of documenting, maintaining, commemorating, and protecting residential school cemeteries to adopt strategies in accordance with the following principles:

- i. The Aboriginal community most affected shall lead the development of such strategies.
- ii. Information shall be sought from residential school Survivors and other Knowledge Keepers in the development of such strategies.
- iii. Aboriginal protocols shall be respected before any potentially invasive technical inspection and investigation of a cemetery site.

The Lets'emot Community to Community Forum remain committed to move forward in partnership with Indigenous peoples by advancing reconciliation as Lets'emot, "one heart, one mind."

Respectfully,



Chief Andrew Victor  
Cheam First Nation



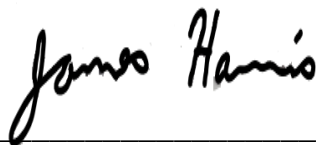
Mayor Sylvia Pranger  
District of Kent



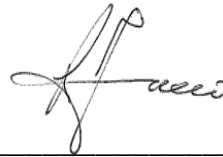
Tribal Chief Tyrone McNeil  
Stó:lō Tribal Council



Chief Ralph Leon  
Sts'ailes



Chief Jim Harris  
Seabird Island Band



Mayor Leo Facio  
Village of Harrison Hot Springs



Chief Johnny Williams  
Sq'ewlets First Nation

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