

June 9, 2021

Right Honourable Justin Trudeau  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

RE: Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action 75

---

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) published their final report, based on the oral testimony of Residential School Survivors and their families. The Report included 94 Calls to Action, the majority of which fall upon the Federal and Provincial Governments to implement. To date, only 10 of the 94 actions have been completed.

Last week, Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation announced the results of a survey at the former Indian Residential School in Kamloops, BC, which uncovered the remains of 215 Indigenous children. This discovery supports and confirms the stories and oral histories of many Residential School Survivors.

It is estimated that up to 6,000 children died in Residential Schools. However, as the discovery by Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation suggests, this number may be underestimated. In fact, many Residential School Survivors have indicated that the discovery in Kamloops will not be the last. It is therefore imperative that urgent action be taken to address Action 75 of the Commission's Calls to Action, as outlined below:

*75. We call upon the federal government to work with provincial, territorial, and municipal governments, churches, Aboriginal communities, former residential school students, and current landowners to develop and implement strategies and procedures for the ongoing identification, documentation, maintenance, commemoration, and protection of residential school cemeteries or other sites at which residential school children were buried. This is to include the provision of appropriate memorial ceremonies and commemorative markers to honour the deceased children.*

In order for reconciliation to take place, the truth must be recognized and acknowledged. Identifying, remembering and honouring the Indigenous children who were killed in Residential Schools is a crucial step in the healing of Indigenous communities.

Our community is situated on the unceded, traditional and ancestral territory of the *Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw*. We know that many of their members attended the Kamloops school while it was open. We took the opportunity in the past week to recommit to the work we have underway with regard to the Calls to Action and the implementation on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. We hope that your government will find ways to accelerate Action 75 in partnership with Aboriginal communities, provincial and local governments.

Yours sincerely,



Karen Elliott, Mayor  
District of Squamish

cc: The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, P.C., M.P. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance;  
The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, P.C., M.P. Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations;  
The Honourable John Horgan, Premier of British Columbia;  
The Honourable Murray Rankin, M.L.A. Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation ADD  
Patrick Weiler, MP, West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky  
BC Municipalities