



**The Corporation of the District of Saanich | Mayor's Office**

770 Vernon Avenue Victoria BC V8X 2W7 | T 250-475-5510 | F 250-475-5440 | www.saanich.ca

Sent via email: pm@pm.gc.ca

July 2, 2021

The Right Honourable Justin P.J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

Re: Residential Schools

---

On June 21, 2021, Saanich Council considered a notice of motion and resolved as follows:

**Whereas** the recent discovery of the remains of 215 aboriginal children at the site of a former Residential School on the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation territory has once again brought to light the dark past of the Residential School system; and

**Whereas** there may be other sites in this country where similar conditions exist; and

**Whereas** some First Nations, Métis groups, or Inuit Councils may be interested in pursuing further investigation of these sites; and

**Whereas** the Federal Government announced on June 9, 2021, a commitment to earmark \$27M specifically toward assisting Indigenous communities in locating and memorializing children who died at residential schools;

**Therefore be it resolved** that Council authorize the Mayor to write to the Prime Minister and other federal and provincial officials, as appropriate, to request that:

- The Federal Government commit to providing adequate resourcing to any First Nation, Métis governed organization, or Inuit Council in Canada which requests – by way of a Band Council Resolution or other appropriate communication from a legitimately representative body of the organization – a desire to investigate, with ground penetrating radar or by other means, the possibility that remains of Residential School residents may be interred on the grounds of those former schools or elsewhere within their traditional territories.
- And that this resourcing also include funds to scientifically ascertain the identities of any found remains.
- And that this resourcing also include funds to repatriate any found remains to their families, clans, or nations of origin.

**And be it further resolved** that the letter include a request that the government implement the 94 recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

**And be it further resolved** that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to all member municipalities of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, with a request for their support of this initiative.”

A link to the notice of motion dated June 14 can be found [here](#). The meeting minutes will soon be available on our [website](#).

Yours Sincerely,



Fred Haynes  
Mayor

c: The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance  
The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations  
The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs  
The Honourable Ahmed D. Hussen, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development  
The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Canadian Heritage  
The Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Indigenous Services  
The Honourable John Horgan, Premier of British Columbia  
The Honourable Mitzi Dean, Minister of Children and Family Development  
The Honourable Lisa Beare, Minister of Citizens' Services  
The Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Finance  
The Honourable Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation  
Saanich Council  
British Columbia Municipalities