



Catholic Independent Schools of Vancouver Archdiocese

Office of the Superintendent

June 2, 2021

The recent news and discovery of 215 Indigenous children's bodies buried at the Kamloops Residential School is painful and deeply disturbing. There are no words that can adequately express the sorrow and deep suffering our Indigenous communities are experiencing now. The members of the Catholic Independent Schools of Vancouver Archdiocese extend our deepest sympathy and regret to all who have suffered the consequences of residential schooling – those who are survivors and those who did not return home.

As a school system we recognize the need to educate and bring to light every tragic situation that occurred in residential schools, especially those administered by the Catholic Church. All of us, administrators, educators, students, and support staff need opportunities to learn about and understand the experiences of our First Nations communities in Canada. Our curriculum has integrated First Peoples Principles and many of our schools have developed relationships with local First Nations, many of them long standing. Yet still much remains to be done.

We recognize and are reminded at this time that we need to heighten our awareness of our local Indigenous people's story and support initiatives that give rise to peace, healing, and justice. We are renewing our commitment to work with the Archdiocese, our schools, and First Nations to accomplish these goals. This discovery is a profound reminder that the road to Truth and Reconciliation is difficult and that there is much that needs to be done to bring understanding, reconciliation, and atonement.

Sincerely,

Deacon Henk Luyten
Superintendent