



STATEMENT REGARDING THE DISCOVERY AT THE FORMER KAMLOOPS INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL ON THE TK'EMLÚPS TE SECWÉPEMC FIRST NATION

June 4, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Diocese of Peterborough,

The recent discovery of the remains of 215 children on the grounds of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School on the Tk'emplúps te Secwépemc First Nation has evoked feelings of shock, bewilderment, and sadness. The residential school system represents a shameful chapter in our nation's history and the involvement of the Catholic Church in that system rightfully evokes feelings of shame and sorrow.

I share and am moved by the sentiments of grief and anger expressed by many people in recent days and affirm the expressions of sorrow offered by my brother bishops in Canada. We must insist that the truth be brought to light both in Kamloops and in former residential schools across our country. Likewise, we as a Church must continue to work to build bridges and foster reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. It is only by honestly confronting the wrongdoings of the past and taking responsibility in the present, that we can hope to move towards future healing and reconciliation.

I have asked the priests of our Diocese to address this matter at the Masses this Sunday, as we pray for the children, the families who mourn them and all those who have been impacted by this tragic news. Recognizing that there is still much work to be done, let us not neglect to pray for the grace and courage to do it.

Yours in Christ,

†Most Reverend Daniel Miehm
Bishop of Peterborough

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