

-----Original Message-----

From: Prime Minister | Premier Ministre [mailto:PM@pm.gc.ca]

Sent: July 19, 2021 1:27 PM

To: Carol Newsom

Subject: Office of the Prime Minister / Cabinet du Premier ministre

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization.

Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

On behalf of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, I would like to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence regarding the recent discovery of unmarked graves found near former residential schools grounds.

Our government is devastated to learn of the ongoing discoveries of unmarked graves on or near former residential school grounds. Our hearts are with the community and all Indigenous Peoples across the country during this deeply emotional and traumatic time as they mourn those innocent souls from their community and others who did not return home. The tragic findings are part of a larger tragedy. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) brought to light the truth about Canadian history and what took place at residential schools. The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation was established and is now responsible for the Student Death Registries. Since Budget 2019, we have been engaging with Indigenous communities impacted by residential schools on how best to proceed with implementing Calls to Action 72 to 76.

The loss of children who attended Indian Residential Schools is unthinkable and Canada remains resolved to supporting families, Survivors and communities and to memorializing those lost innocent souls. Our government is profoundly aware that identifying burial locations of children who died while attending residential schools is fundamental to being able to, through ceremony, recognize these lost children and honour them. Our Government is here to support every community that wants to do this work and for us to support the healing.

Thank you once again for sharing your concerns and for writing to the Prime Minister.
Please accept my warmest regards.

Sincerely,

Jean-Luc Marion
Senior Manager - Prime Minister's Correspondence