



Statement in Support of Indigenous Elders, Families and Communities Impacted by the Residential School System

Traditional Territories of the Squamish Nation/West Vancouver, BC – The Aboriginal Housing Management Association shares our sorrow and love for the 215 children found at the site of the Kamloops Residential School. The AHMA team stands as part of the Indigenous community to honour these children and hold our ceremonies to send our messages of love and support as their families put them to rest. We hold the 215 children in our hearts and commit to not allowing their deaths to be forgotten. We believe these children will be the catalyst to bring more Indigenous children home across Canada.

AHMA stands in solidarity with our 48 Indigenous Housing and Service Providers, the Assembly First Nations, The BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres and our extended network of Indigenous communities who are holding space to honour and respect all of the stolen children who died at residential schools, survivors of residential school, each of their family members and their communities. AHMA also extends our sincere gratitude for the resiliency and strength of our Indigenous Housing and Service Providers, their tenants and community.

At this time, AHMA calls on our partners and colleagues to centre Indigenous voices and to hold space for our Indigenous communities, to listen, learn and move forward in a good way. As investigations continue, it is important to ensure the information surrounding residential schools is shared in a mindful and culturally appropriate manner that respects the experience of Indigenous Peoples in Canada and the potential retriggering of any traumas.

AHMA raises our hands to the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation for their work for justice and to bring attention to these severe violations of human rights. Our hearts continue to pour out to the survivors, intergenerational survivors and their communities.

Below are helplines that can help with the resurfacing-trauma:

Kuu-us Crisis Line
ADULTS: 250-723-4050
YOUTH: 250-723-2040
1-800-588-8719

Please feel free to reach out to your contacts at AHMA to share, plan, and discuss your way forward and any support you and your community need. AHMA will do our best to listen and connect.

All my relations,

Margaret Pfoh
Chief Executive Officer
Aboriginal Housing Management Association