

# May Their Spirits Rest in Power

The recent discovery of the remains of 215 children found at the Kamloops Residential School in B.C. is a reminder of the genocide against Indigenous peoples. A shameful but necessary reminder of Canada's relationship with Indigenous communities. We must sit with the discomfort of Canada's actions, both historical and present day. The Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc community is mourning the loss of not only those 215 children, but the generations that were denied an existence because of systemic racism.

Residential schools facilitated the genocide of Indigenous communities. They were designed to erase Indigenous identities, destroy their cultures, languages and ways of life. The legacy of these atrocities continues to cause harm to this day as evidenced by the intergenerational trauma experienced within the Indigenous community. We would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the role social work/child welfare and other helping professions have played and continue to play in the destruction of Indigenous communities. We work and reside within systems that uphold white supremacy; therefore, we must actively engage in the necessary work to disrupt said systems.

We must commit to engage in meaningful work towards truth and reconciliation.

Allyship requires self-awareness, self-reflection, and a willingness to actively engage in re-educating ourselves, inclusive of acknowledging how we all benefit in ways that are harmful to others.

You can learn about whose land you live on by searching **Native-Land.ca**

We can love Canada **AND** want the country to do better. For those of us who are not Indigenous, we are settlers on this land and, as such must stand in solidarity with the Indigenous communities.

May the spirits of those 215 children rest in power.

