

DURHAM REGION LAW ASSOCIATION



Statement on the discovery of 215 Indigenous Children located at the Kamloops Residential School

Wednesday, June 9th, 2021

On Behalf of the Durham Region Law Association

Members of the Durham community and the Durham Region Law Association are shocked and saddened by the discovery of the remains of 215 children buried at the site of Kamloops Residential School.

On behalf of the legal community in Durham Region, the Durham Region Law Association wishes to extend our condolences to those most directly affected by this tragedy including the families, the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation, residential school survivors and their families and Indigenous communities across Canada. This is a national tragedy which originated through the actions of our own government. The tragedies of residential schools continue to cause suffering in Indigenous communities. This tragedy involves all Canadians. These wrongs are part of Canada's past and present and will remain part of our future unless Canadians take action and ensure our governments take action.

We urge all our members, all Canadians and organizations, institutions and governments to implement the Calls to Action as well as the Calls to Justice from the MMIWG Inquiry. We call upon the provincial and federal governments to support the full investigation of all residential school sites for unmarked graves, and for the Catholic Church to take responsibility for its role and provide their full co-operation in this investigation including the release of all documents.