



Diocese of Kamloops
BISHOP'S OFFICE

June 3, 2021

Pastoral Letter to the Faithful of the Diocese of Kamloops

On May 28, 2021 I wrote a letter to you expressing how heartfelt and horrified I was about the news report concerning the discovery of the remains of 215 children found at the former residential school site in Kamloops.

Thank you to all who have reached out to express your strong emotions following the identification of children's remains at the Kamloops residential school site. The unmarked nature is deeply troubling and it raises questions that need to be investigated and answered for the families and our community.

The Diocese of Kamloops and the Archdiocese of Vancouver responded to the calls of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission over 8 years ago by disclosing all our records on the school to the Federal government. The Federal government has our full cooperation to investigate this issue and work toward finding out why these children died and to give them the dignity of a proper burial.

This week I reached out to and spoke with the sisters of St. Ann and the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, who were involved in the residential schools in British Columbia, and today, Thursday, June 3rd, 2021 I met with Chief Rosanne Casimir and the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc council. I continue to offer my deepest sorrow and sincere apology to the families and communities that have been devastated by this report.

With the cooperation of the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc, I am in the process of developing and organizing a long-term pastoral approach in response to the above-mentioned report and remain committed to an ongoing effort towards reconciliation and healing.

I am committed to responding to any requests from the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc Community to accompany them on this difficulty and painful journey with hope that we can heal this suffering.

Yours Sincerely,

✠ Joseph Phuong Nguyen
Bishop of Kamloops