



June 8, 2021

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

As an organization representing more than 3600 child and youth health professionals, we are writing today to call on your government to accelerate action on implementing the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) final report, especially searching every residential school site to find and identify every lost child.

As paediatricians whose life work is caring for children, we were profoundly saddened and distressed upon hearing that 215 children were buried in unmarked graves at the Kamloops residential school. We honour the memory of these children and offer our deepest condolences to the communities and families affected by this discovery, as well as all survivors of the residential school system.

Not only were these children denied dignity and honour at the end of their lives, but the circumstances of their deaths and the details of their lives while at the Kamloops school continue to be concealed. Sadly, these 215 children are among countless others across this land who have yet to be discovered. Thanks to the work of the TRC and the courage of residential school survivors who testified, we have heard the stories of children who went missing and who never returned home.

These children, their families, and their communities deserve to know the truth. Yet more than five years after the release of the TRC's report, there has been no significant action to redress these unconscionable wrongs.

The federal government must provide immediate funding to further investigate the deaths and disappearances of children at residential schools, as mandated in Calls to Action 71-76. There is perhaps no greater pain than the loss of a child, and yet Indigenous families and communities across the country have had to bear this pain for generations. We urge your government to heed the calls of Indigenous leaders for truth and justice now.

Sincerely,

[Original Signed By]

Sam K. Wong, MD, FRCPC
President

Radha Jetty, MD, FRCPC
Chair, First Nations, Inuit & Métis Health Committee

c.

Hon. Marc Miller, Minister of Indigenous Services

Perry Bellegarde, AFN National Chief

Natan Obed, ITK President

Clément Chartier, MNC President