Anishinaabe Abinoojii Family Services

Administration Office
Wauzhushk Onigum Nation
Phone 807.548.1099
Fax 807.548.1345

Correction Notice Media Release

June 1, 2021

Anishinaabe Abinoojii Family Services extend their sadness on the devastating news of 215 children at Kamloops Indian Residential School

It is with great sadness to hear about our Western community where they found 215 children that never made it home from the Kamloops Indian Residential School.

Reno Cameron, Chair, "I was devastated to hear the horrific news of 215 children who never made it home to their loved ones. This situation is a dark history for Canada and its treatment of First Nation People. We are sending healing, prayers and comfort to our sisters and brothers at Tk´emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation" '

Lawrence W. Jourdain, a survivor and Executive Director, said in an emotional laden statement, "The Indian Residential School System (IRS) has had major impacts on Indigenous families and communities. To learn of a mass grave that held the precious remains of 215 children is shocking. As a family services agency, we are still confronting and unravelling the social effects caused by cultural deprivation and familial deconstruction inflicted on Anishinaabe communities, families, parents and their children. This is horrible news, it is devasting and incomprehensible, but we were always warned by the 'big boys' to avoid the graveyards, at all times".

Anishinaabe Abinoojii Family Services Directors and Staff would like to send our deepest and sincerest condolences to Tk´emlúps te Secwépemc First Nations whose beautiful children never made it home.

May only Good Spirits guide us all.

AAFS will be having a ceremony on June 3, 2021 at the Wauzhushk Onigum Traditional Round House at 11 am to honour the children that never made it home and to bring healing for the families and communities that were affected by this tragedy.

National Indian Residential School Crisis Line Set Up to Provide Support for Former Residential School Students and their Families:

National IRS Crisis Line: 1-866-925-4419
Regional IRS Support Services:

Atlantic: 1-866-414-8111	Saskatchewan: 1-866-250-1529
Quebec: 1-877-583-2965	Alberta: 1-888-495-6588
Ontario: 1-888-301-6426	NWT, Nunavut, and Yukon: 1-866-509-1769
Manitoba: 1-866-818-3505	British Columbia: 1-877-477-0775

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Further inquires contact Alexandra Paul, Communications Officer at 807 464 3522