Expression of Condolence by Toronto City Council for those found in unmarked graves near the former Residential School on Penelakut Island

Moved by: Mayor John Tory

Seconded by: Councillor Mike Layton

The Mayor and Members of Council are deeply saddened to learn of the discovery of 160 unmarked graves near the site of a former residential school, Kuper Island industrial school, on Penelakut Island in British Columbia.

We pause to mourn those whose graves were found, and we recognize the trauma being experienced by the Penelakut Tribe and its community, by survivors and their families and by those impacted by intergenerational trauma.

The cumulative impacts of these discoveries and others that may happen in the future will have both immediate effects and long term trauma on Indigenous communities.

During an incredibly difficult time for Indigenous communities across the country, the City of Toronto is firmly committed to truth, reconciliation and justice and to continuing to take actions to address significant challenges experienced by Indigenous residents.

The City Clerk is asked to convey, on behalf of Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to the Penelakut Tribe as well as to other communities that have suffered these losses. They represent a sad and shameful chapter in our history which must be recognized and acted upon.