

***Expression of Condolence for
Tseshaht First Nation by Toronto City Council***

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Jennifer McKelvie

Seconded by: Councillor Chris Moise

The Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the 67 students who passed away while attending the former Alberni Indian Residential School on Vancouver Island, and would like to express condolences to the Tseshaht First Nation with the announcement of 17 unmarked graves at the site of the former school.

The tragic reality of Canada's residential and day school system has been known to elders, knowledge keepers, survivors and Indigenous communities for generations. With the discovery of unmarked graves at Alberni Indian Residential School, the members of the Tseshaht First Nation are reminded of the horrific legacy of trauma that Canada's residential and day schools have had on First Nations, Inuit and Métis people across the country.

We pause to mourn them and we recognize the ongoing trauma being experienced by the Tseshaht First Nation, including survivors of the residential school system, along with the enduring pain and anguish for families who have lost their children. We must continue to remember all those whose graves have been confirmed, the graves that are still to be uncovered, the Indigenous children who didn't come home, the survivors and their families.

During this difficult time, the City of Toronto recognizes the need to remain firmly committed to Truth, Justice and Reconciliation.

The City Clerk is asked to convey, on behalf of Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to the Tseshaht First Nation, and all First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities.

March 29, 2023