

***Expression of Condolence to the
English River First Nation by Toronto City Council***

Moved by: Mayor Olivia Chow

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Ausma Malik

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn that 93 unmarked graves are believed to have been identified by the English River First Nation, at the site of the former Beauval Indian Residential School in Saskatchewan.

This announcement is especially disturbing given that the potential number of unmarked graves has increased since research initially began. It is another stark reminder of the lasting trauma being experienced by First Nations, Inuit and Métis people across the country that resulted from Canada's residential and day school system.

We pause to mourn the lives that were lost and recognize that, tragically, this horrific legacy has been known to elders, knowledge keepers, survivors and Indigenous communities for generations. We also acknowledge the enduring pain as well as the intergenerational and ongoing trauma being experienced by members of the English River First Nation, who have been impacted by this devastating news.

We 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 requested to convey, on behalf of Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to the English River First Nation, the many other Indigenous communities in the surrounding area that have been impacted by this announcement, as well as all First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities across the country.

September 6, 2023