

## Manitoba College of Social Workers Every Child Matters

June 4, 2021



The Manitoba College of Social Workers joins the nation in mourning the devastating and senseless loss of 215 Indigenous children whose remains were discovered on the grounds of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School. We honour the lives of these children, the children still missing and the thousands of others who were forcibly placed in residential schools, denied their families, their culture and their rights and harmed due to colonial violence and neglect.

MCSW offers caring thoughts to the families, the survivors, the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation and all Indigenous communities across the country. We acknowledge the role of our profession in Canada's shameful history and the ongoing systemic oppression inflicted upon Indigenous People. MCSW joins calls from Indigenous leaders and communities for the government of Canada to identify these 215 children, determine their cause of death, fund investigations into all former residential school sites and fully implement the Calls to Action outlined in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report.

The Manitoba College of Social Workers deeply apologizes for our profession's role in supporting the implementation of residential schools and in engaging in child welfare practices that have resulted in ongoing trauma due to the separation of Indigenous children from their families. The College supports the *Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families* affirming the rights of Indigenous People to exercise authority over their child welfare systems and commits to participating in and supporting revisions to the Social Work Code of Ethics with an Indigenous lens guided by the TRC Calls to Action.

As we reflect on this tragedy, MCSW reaffirms our commitment to learn about, advocate for and reconcile with Indigenous Peoples of Canada as we humbly move forward on our path to reconciliation. While the College continues to work towards goals identified in our [Winnipeg Indigenous Accord Partnership Plan](#) and our current [Strategic Plan](#), we are dedicated to [developing the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan](#) with an Indigenous and anti-racist lens in the spirit of reconciliation and in keeping with the principles of equity, inclusion and diversity.

*Those seeking support may wish to contact the National Indian Residential School Crisis Hotline at 1-866-925-4419.*

