

Xyólhmet ye Syéwiqwélh (Taking Care of Our Children)

Investigating Unmarked Graves at Multiple Sites Associated with Three Former Residential Schools in S'ólh Téméxw

Stó:lō Nation Chiefs' Council (SNCC), under the leadership of Chief David Jimmie, President of the SNCC, have launched a broad-based and inclusive initiative to investigate potential unmarked graves and missing children related to three of the former Residential School sites within S'ólh Téméxw: the former St. Mary's, Coqualeetza, and All Hallows institutions in Mission, Chilliwack, and Yale. The project team will carry out archival, oral historical and on-site remote sensing work in search of identifiable unmarked graves. We are also working with local Stó:lō First Nations including Sqwá, Sq'ewqéyl and Ch'iyáqtel regarding unmarked burials known to have been relocated to each of their cemeteries from the Coqualeetza Grounds. Other major goals of our work are to identify Stó:lō children who were sent to Residential Schools – anywhere – and did not return home; as well as to support the commemoration and memorialization of Residential School Survivors and lost children within the Stó:lō communities and more broadly.

The team is gathering information from community members, or any other individuals, who have knowledge they would like to share about children who were sent to any Residential School and did not return home, or about cemeteries and burials associated with the three former Residential Schools. If you would like to share any information, the project team can be contacted at TakingCareOfOurChildren@stolonation.bc.ca.

We know that this work may be re-traumatizing and can affect the health and well-being of many. It is important to take care of your own wellness and pay attention to the wellness of those around you. If you or someone around you needs support at any time, please reach out to one of the many supports available, 24 hours a day.

Indian Residential School Survivors Society

1-800-721-0066 (toll-free)

National Indian Residential School Crisis Line

1-866-925-4419 (toll-free)

Kuu-Us Crisis Line Society

Crisis services for Indigenous people across BC

250-723-4050 (Adults/Elders line)

250-723-2040 (Youth line)

or **1-800-588-8717** (toll-free)

Hope for Wellness Help Line

Immediate mental health counselling and crisis intervention

1-855-242-3310 (toll-free)

or [hopeforwellness.ca](https://www.hopeforwellness.ca) (confidential chat)

Métis Crisis Line

1-833-MétisBC (1-833-638-4722)

For more about this work, please visit www.stolonation.bc.ca/residential-school-project-information

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Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre

#10 – 7201 Vedder Rd., Chilliwack, BC, V2R 4G5

www.srrmcentre.com

TakingCareOfOurChildren@stolonation.bc.ca

