

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

September 21, 2023

The Chilliwack School District is saddened by today's announcement of the heartbreaking discovery of the death of 158 Indigenous children at the former St. Mary's Residential School, Coqualeetza Industrial Institute, All Hallows School and Coqualeetza Indian Hospital on Stó:lō Territory.

Our hearts go out to all the families that this tragedy has impacted in Pilalt, Ts'elxwéyeqw and Sema:th. Canada's past injustices and unimaginable treatment of Indigenous children and families is a stark reminder that we still have a long path ahead of us towards reconciliation. We acknowledge the lasting harm done to Indigenous people and communities by Canada's residential school program, and we are committed to truth, reconciliation, and healing to create an equitable country. It is only through recognizing the reality of our nation's past that we can hope to do better for the youth of today and tomorrow.