

## Statement on the Discovery at the Former Marieval Indian Residential School

June 25, 2021

With the horrific discovery by the Cowessess First Nation of the 751 unmarked graves at the former Marieval Indian Residential School in Saskatchewan, we have been given another stark reminder of the truth of the genocide that occurred in residential schools. We see clearly and painfully the devastation of young lives cut short, families shattered, and the lasting harm caused to Indigenous families and communities. Sadly, we also know that there is more pain to come as other bleak discoveries are uncovered in the weeks and months ahead, as Indigenous communities continue to search for the remains of their families at former residential school sites.

For this, we grieve and mourn with Indigenous families and communities, many of whom are our neighbours with children in our schools. We honour those lives lost by pausing to acknowledge those removed from their families and to grieve for the joys of childhood, family, and happy futures they were denied.

We reaffirm our commitment to teaching the truth about the history and horrific impact of Canada's residential schools, and the resulting harm done to Indigenous families and communities. We commit to embracing anti-racism and anti-oppression in our schools so that children and families will not suffer in this way again.

We also affirm our responsibility and intention to uphold the implementation of the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Reports and stand with the Indigenous communities of Canada in their grief. We shall not forget. Every child matters.