



The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario

June 29, 2021

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Premier Ford,

As leaders of a public Board of Education, the Trustees of the Halton District School Board expressed profound anger about the negative and lasting impacts of the residential school system and sadness about the discovery of the horrific loss of life at the Kamloops Residential School for which there must be accountability.

As a response, the Trustees of the Halton District School Board adopted the following recommendation unanimously at the June 2, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board:

Be it resolved that the Chair be directed to write a letter on behalf of the Board of Trustees to Prime Minister Trudeau and the Premier of Ontario Ford urging that the Federal and Provincial Governments listen and take action to honour the requests of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nations and all Indigenous peoples to fulfil its obligations under the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. Specifically, the letter should include:

- That funding be made available by the Government of Canada to undertake and fulfill the Calls to Action regarding Missing Children and Burial Information (#71 - #76).
- That ground penetrating radar technology be made available to search the grounds of all Residential Schools so that all children can go home.
- That Indigenous peoples from the communities closest to Residential Schools are actively involved in all stages of the processes at every site.
- That the voices of the Indigenous community members are centred and lead the process at all sites.

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Prime Minister, in support of Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nations, all survivors of Residential Schools, their families and all Indigenous peoples in what is now known as Canada, we call upon you to listen to Indigenous voices and fulfil your obligations under the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action. We also call on you to utilize your position to advocate for actions and apologies from the churches involved.

As leaders in an educational system, we believe that these actions are crucial, so that there is accountability and a contribution to healing for families whose children were lost at many Residential Schools. The magnitude of this tragedy is becoming more known with each passing week. We also know that publicly-funded education holds a critical role, in ensuring all staff and students are fully aware, through curriculum and Indigenous voices, of this terrible truth and the resulting trauma that exists to this day. These actions are necessary for a just future.

Sincerely,



Andréa Grebenc
Chair of the Board of Trustees
Halton District School Board

Cc: Nancy Rowe and Chief Stacey LaForme, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation
The Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education
The Honourable Anita Anand, MP, Oakville
The Honourable Karina Gould, MP, Burlington
Michael Chong, MP, Wellington-Halton Hills
Pam Damoff, MP, Oakville North-Burlington
Adam van Koeverden, MP, Milton
The Honourable Ted Arnott, MPP, Wellington-Halton Hills
Jane McKenna, MPP, Burlington
Parm Gill, MPP, Milton
Stephen Crawford, MPP, Oakville
Effie Triantafilopoulos, MPP, Oakville North-Burlington
Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Member Board Chairs