

## Draft Summary Report

October 14<sup>TH</sup>-15<sup>TH</sup>, 2021

Provincial Gathering for Caretaker Communities of  
Indian Residential School and Indian Hospital Sites in BC  
Moccasin Square Gardens – Tk’emlúps te Secwépemc

### Purpose:

This summary report has been prepared to present key themes that emerged during the two-day dialogue. Please note that this is a draft and can be updated at the direction of attendees.

### Attendees:

Community or Tribal Council	Residential School or Hospital Site
Ahousaht	Ahousaht Residential School & Christie Residential School
Tseshaht (online)	Alberni Residential School
Ulkatcho	Anahim Lake Dormitory
Tl’etinqox (online)	Anaham Indian Hospital
Stó:lō Nation & Stó:lō Tribal Council	Coqualeetza Indian Hospital and Indian Residential School & St. Mary’s Mission Residential School
Tk’emlúps te Secwépemc	Kamloops Residential School
Penelakut	Kuper Island Industrial School
Nadleh Whut’en First Nation	Lejac Residential School
shishálh Nation (online)	Sechelt Residential School
Williams Lake First Nation	St. Joseph's (Cariboo) Residential School
’Namgis First Nation	St. Michael’s (Alert Bay) Residential School
Daylu Dena Council	Lower Post Residential School
Squamish	St. Paul’s Residential School
ʔaq’am	St. Eugene’s Residential School

### Key Themes:

The table below presents a summary of key themes:

Theme	Description
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need flexible funding arrangements to allow the work to evolve over time. It is difficult to know exactly what is needed at the start of the process. It will be important for Canada and BC to make changes to funding criteria as communities learn more.</li> <li>• Opportunity to share best practices and approaches for building budgets.</li> <li>• Need to address gaps in the federal funding, including the resources required to do forensic analysis (i.e. DNA analysis).</li> <li>• Require clarity on FNHA funding for mental health and wellness supports and how this can be coordinated with federal and provincial funding available for site-specific work.</li> <li>• Recommendation that there be a base allocation for each of the sites.</li> <li>• Canada and BC need to acknowledge that this work will take years and there will be a need for long-term funding.</li> </ul>
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require coordinated approach for accessing records held by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR), the Government of Canada (National Library and Archives), the Province of BC (BC Archives), the Churches, and Crown Corporations or Agencies.</li> <li>• This work is time sensitive and all entities holding records need to expedite access.</li> <li>• Require access to all records that may be relevant to investigations, including information on how the physical location of the site has been changed over time (i.e. buildings being torn down or moved due to local development).</li> <li>• Important that First Nations assert their rights to own and control their data.</li> <li>• Need support and resources to develop long-term data storage solutions, including systems.</li> <li>• Important to acknowledge that caretaker communities will be approached by survivors, intergenerational survivors and community members from across the province (and possibly Alberta) as children travelled long distances.</li> <li>• Need a way to share and coordinate data across sites as children often attended multiple schools.</li> <li>• Continue to advocate to access all records from the Government of Canada and the Churches (and all orders/organisations affiliated with the schools and hospitals).</li> <li>• The school narratives are incomplete as not all of the information from the Churches has been provided in the development of these documents. These narratives need to be completed on a priority basis.</li> <li>• Important to acknowledge that community narratives still need to be completed.</li> <li>• There may be interest to create a lost children register based on information collected through the research process.</li> </ul>

<p>Cultural Protocols</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The work must be led by First Nations with proper recognition of their right to self-determination.</li> <li>• Need to develop cultural and spiritual protocols to guide how the investigation is designed and implemented. This is particularly important when communities are contemplating more technically invasive/intrusive work on the site (e.g. exhumation/excavation of unmarked graves).</li> <li>• Need to put cultural supports and protocols in place for survivors, families or communities that may wish to visit the site (acknowledging that children came from all across the province).</li> <li>• Need to be clear about visitors can carry out ceremony on the site.</li> <li>• Important to develop protocols for providing cultural, spiritual and emotional supports for those that are visiting the site or may be impacted by the investigation being conducted by lead communities.</li> <li>• Recommendation to revisit the term 'caretaker community'. There is recognition of the role as caretakers or custodians of the missing children but need to be respectful how these roles are described. Important to acknowledge that communities have accepted this responsibility but were never consulted by the government or churches when these schools and hospitals were first built in or near their communities.</li> <li>• Need more information on the process of repatriating remains. How can this be carried out? What protocols need to be put in place to do this?</li> <li>• Important to embed cultural protocols into the interview process with survivors and intergenerational survivors.</li> </ul>
<p>Mental Wellness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommendation that communities host trauma-informed practice training with their community members to build capacity and awareness about trauma and its impacts.</li> <li>• Important to acknowledge that the residential school system has caused lasting physical, emotional, mental and spiritual harm to families and communities. It will take time to heal from multi-generational trauma.</li> <li>• Require ongoing resources to set up mental health and wellness supports for survivors, intergenerational survivors and their families.</li> <li>• Recommendation that communities continue to share promising practices and approaches with each other.</li> <li>• Important to put in place health and safety protocols when interviewing survivors or intergenerational survivors in the event they are triggered or retraumatized when sharing information.</li> </ul>
<p>Investigations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require more resources and information on forensic investigations, particularly the roles and responsibilities of federal and provincial agencies and technical assistance that can be provided.</li> <li>• The investigative model needs to be community-based and community-led. Require full cooperation and collaboration with federal and provincial agencies such as the RCMP and BC Coroners Service.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More engagement needed with police services to determine how community-led investigations can advance in a way that upholds public confidence in the investigation and continuity in the evidence collected.</li> <li>• Need clarity on federal funding for DNA analysis.</li> <li>• These are human rights violations that need to be understood in the context of international humanitarian law and associated remedies for these violations. May require oversight to ensure investigations are consistent with international standards for unmarked and mass graves.</li> <li>• Concern about racism in the criminal justice system and ability to hold government and churches to account in the absence of trust.</li> </ul>
<p>Provincial Focus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to engage with BC on the application of the <i>Heritage Conservation Act</i> in the context of site-specific activities, particularly as it relates to policies related to ancestral remains. The <i>Heritage Conservation Act</i> has been a challenge in the past and needs to be revisited/reviewed in this context.</li> <li>• Need to be clear about the process to explore the expropriation and/or return of private property when unmarked graves are located.</li> <li>• Need to be proactive in providing proper recognition and protection of these sites and avoid further disruption/destruction from development.</li> </ul>
<p>Federal Focus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Nations in BC want to shape the selection and role of the Special Interlocutor being appointed by Canada.</li> <li>• Need to understand the role and composition of the National Advisory Committee being created by Canada.</li> <li>• Need assistance to make connections with work happening across the country, particularly where people from communities in BC were sent to schools in Alberta or Yukon.</li> <li>• Need to provide input on flying the flags at half-mast.</li> <li>• There continues to be a concern about the destruction of records by the federal government.</li> <li>• It is important that BC approaches community needs in a wholistic way that acknowledges the connection between issues that impact health and wellbeing (e.g. housing, infrastructure, services, etc.).</li> </ul>
<p>Continued Cooperation &amp; Collaboration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is strong support for continued engagement with each other as communities.</li> <li>• Recommendation that all communities come together on a quarterly basis.</li> <li>• Opportunity for those communities with experience and established processes to share information and support those that are still getting started.</li> <li>• Need to share what works and what does not work in these meetings.</li> <li>• Opportunity for collaboration among communities on research in recognition that children attended multiple schools both inside and outside the province.</li> <li>• Need to determine timing, format and frequency for continued collaboration.</li> <li>• Need to determine who hosts the information.</li> <li>• Recommendation to BC create a contact list for all of the communities and begin building a list of trusted professionals/contractors that can support at different stages in the process (e.g. GPR).</li> </ul>

- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recommendation to track emerging issues/interests/priorities.</li></ul> |
|--|---|

### **Next Steps:**

The following were discussed as next steps:

- Distribute the presentations and related resources to all participants after the provincial gathering.
- Develop a contact list with all of the lead communities.
- Schedule a virtual session to support ongoing dialogue among the lead communities.

DRAFT

### **Appendix A – Agenda**

**Objectives:**

- Create a safe space to engage in an open dialogue about challenges and expectations
- Meet each other, make connections, and explore ways to work together
- Learn about promising practices based on the experience of other communities
- Learn about resources available to support the development and implementation of community-led strategies and plans
- Begin discussion on key elements of province-wide strategy and path forward

**October 14<sup>th</sup> (Open to First Nations Leadership Only)**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
8:30am	Opening Prayer and Welcome Song	Tk'emlúps Language & Culture Department
8:45am	Opening Remarks and Welcome	Kukpi7 Rosanne Casimir
9:00am	Roundtable of Introductions and Agenda Overview	Charlene & Lydia
10:30am	<b>Wellness Break</b>	
10:45am	Site Visit ( <i>Optional</i> )	Tk'emlúps Language & Culture Department
12:00pm	<b>Lunch</b>	
1:00pm	Presentation by Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc (Kamloops Residential School) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Journey to Date</li> <li>• Lessons Learned &amp; Promising Practices</li> </ul>	Ted Gottfriedson, Leslie LeBourdais & Travis Anderson
2:30pm	<b>Wellness Break</b>	
2:45pm	Opportunities for Collaboration and Unity Among Communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Resource Guide</li> <li>• Province-Wide Strategy and Path Forward</li> </ul>	Charlene & Lydia
4:00pm	Closing Comments and Next Steps	Charlene & Lydia
4:15pm	<b>Adjourn</b>	

**October 15<sup>th</sup> (Open to Federal and Provincial Partners)**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
8:30am	Opening Prayer	Tk'emlúps Language & Culture Department
8:45am	Agenda Overview	Charlene & Lydia
8:50am	Greeting from Minister Rankin, Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation	Hon. Murray Rankin
8:55am	Panel Presentation on Partner Supports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal and Provincial Funding Supports</li> <li>• Health and Wellness Supports</li> </ul>	CIRNAC, ISC, MIRR & FNHA
9:30am	Presentation by Williams Lake First Nation (St. Joseph's Residential School)	Chief Willie Sellars & Whitney Spearing
10:30am	<b>Wellness Break</b>	
10:45am	Presentation by Stó:lō Nation (St. Mary's and Coqualeetza Residential Schools)	David Schaepe, Amber Kostuchenko & Grand Chief Clarence Pennier
12:00pm	<b>Lunch</b>	
1:00pm	Approaches to Archival Research	Ry Moran, Associate Librarian, UVIC
2:30pm	<b>Wellness Break</b>	
2:45pm	Roundtable & Closing Remarks	Charlene & Lydia
3:30pm	<b>Adjourn</b>	