



ANSDPAD

AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN DECADE FOR
PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT COALITION

49 Wilfred Jackson Way
Cherry Brook NS B2Z 1A8
Phone: (902) 462-3723 (DPAD)
Toll Free: 1-833-330-3723 (DPAD)
www.ansdpad.ca

June 4, 2021

The African Nova Scotian Decade for People of African Descent Coalition (ANSDPAD) mourns and honours the 215 Indigenous Children found in an unmarked grave at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School. ANSDPAD members recognize the immense loss to families, communities, our Indigenous brothers and sisters, and the country. We mourn the thousands of Indigenous children who never came home, who were lost to the Indian Residential School System.

We stand in solidarity with the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc, Indian Residential School survivors and First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples as you try to process this recent discovery, while also living daily with the trauma and loss from the genocidal legacy of the Residential School system. We know that while this discovery was horrifying, it does not come as a surprise as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (founded in 2008) estimated as many as 6,000 children went missing from the more than 130 residential schools country-wide. Where are these missing children? We call for action to be taken to find and honour each and every precious soul.

ANSDPAD holds the government of Canada accountable and liable for its failure to provide for adequate reparations for the atrocities committed in the Residential School System, and the ongoing trauma and human rights violations against Indigenous Peoples stemming from colonization.

We call on the government of Canada to work with each province and territory to fully explore all residential schools Canada-wide, to find, identify and properly respect the missing children and their families; and to fully implement all of the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada; as well as the 231 calls for justice of the National Inquiry into the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The Canadian Government should require that all relevant documentation be released by the churches and other institutions.

ANSDPAD will always stand in solidarity with our First Nations brothers and sisters because we believe as the late Dr. Martin Luther King said "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. Indigenous Lives Matter.

With respect and our condolences,

Vanessa Fells
Director of Operations
director@ansdpad.ca