

Trigger Warning: Residential Schools, Colonialism, Intergenerational Trauma, Genocide.

Background and Key Considerations:

On May 27th, 2021, news was released regarding the findings of 215 unmarked graves on the grounds of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School. These findings were accompanied by statements from Tk'emlups te Secwepemc leadership as well the Union of BC Indian Chiefs.

More recently, on June 24th, 2021, the Cowessess First Nation Chief Cadmus Delorme announced the findings of 751 unmarked graves on the grounds of the former Marieval Indian Residential School in Saskatchewan.

The Simon Fraser Student Society continually acknowledges that the direct impacts of Indian Residential Schools are continual, ongoing, and intergenerational. We acknowledge that the colonialistic structures imposed by the Canadian federal government and the catholic church have, and continue to, cause detrimental harm to Indigenous communities through acts of genocide and forced assimilation.

The Simon Fraser Student Society is committed to reconciliation efforts as outlined in our Issues Policy: [IP-7 Indigenous Inclusion and Reconciliation](#). This issues policy outlines the stance that we, as individual councillors and as a society, continue to take in regards to Indigenous issues. As a society, it is our responsibility to understand the complicity in participating in the colonial structures embedded within the education system that actively perpetuates harm to Indigenous students and communities.

We are obligated to speak out against the crimes that have been and continue to be, committed against Indigenous People(s) on stolen land. In passing the motion outlined below, the Simon Fraser Student Society acknowledges that we must do our part to ensure that we uphold the true meaning of the [Calls to Action](#) outlined by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The SFSS will continue to push back and amplify Indigenous voices and condemn the ongoing genocide against Indigenous People(s).

The Motion passed by the Simon Fraser Student Society on June 30th, 2021, reads:

Whereas on May 27th, 2021 Tk'emlups te Secwepemc leadership released an official statement regarding the findings of 215 unmarked graves on the grounds of Kamloops Indian Residential School,

Whereas on June 24, 2021, Cowessess First Nation Chief Cadmus Delorme announced in a press conference that 751 unmarked graves were found on the grounds at the former Marieval Indian Residential School in Saskatchewan,

Whereas it is roughly estimated that there are currently over 1300 unmarked graves across so-called Canada, and it is estimated that the number will continue to grow in the coming months and years,

Whereas the recent news of these unmarked graves of Indigenous children who attended Indian Residential Schools are currently impacting our Indigenous communities across Turtle Island mentally, physically, emotionally, and spiritually,

Whereas the Simon Fraser Student Society is committed to pushing back against colonial practices that still impact Indigenous students in post-secondary institutions and is committed to supporting Indigenous students to learn in a safe and supportive environment within SFU,

Be it resolved that the 2021-2022 SFSS Council continue to stand in solidarity with Indigenous students and communities during these times of grief,

Be it further resolved that the SFSS Council task the 2021-2022 the Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour Committee as well as include Indigenous community members in drafting internal SFSS Calls to Action in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to further mandate and support reconciliation efforts to address the systemic issues that are embedded in all colonial institutions,

Be it resolved that Council continue to support and amplify Calls to Action from Indigenous communities in all capacities, including letters of supports, sharing resources, donations, and taking individual action to educate ourselves on these ongoing issues,

Be it further resolved that the SFSS Council donates \$6000.00 to the Indian Residential School Survivors Society from the appropriate line item to be determined from VP Finance and Services to further support those who have been negatively impacted by the Indian residential school system that was imposed by the so-called Canadian government,

Be it further resolved that the SFSS continues to advocate and push back on acts of genocide and colonialism that have impacted Indigenous People(s) since contact, this includes but not limited to: the condemnation of the so-called Canadian government denying acts of genocide against Indigenous People(s) of Turtle Island; calling on the so-called Canadian governments to stop fighting cases that are brought against the government by Indian Residential School survivors; amplifying Indigenous students and organizers calls in our lobbying and advocacy efforts and other such actions.