

Chris O'Riley
President & Chief Executive Officer
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June 02, 2021

Chief Bonnie Jacobsen
Upper Similkameen Indian Band

Email: b.jacobsen@usib.ca

Dear Chief Jacobsen,

I want to extend my sincerest condolences regarding the devastating news of the burial site found at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School.

There are truly no words appropriate for the immense loss and grief that this situation represents. The loss of these 215 children, and many others, is simply unimaginable and a stark reminder of the past that we all must reconcile, not just here in B.C., but across Canada. The legacy of residential schools is not behind us and I'm incredibly sorry that you and your community continue to live through it today.

As with flags at federal and provincial buildings across the country, we have lowered flags at our Dunsmuir office to half-mast this week in recognition of this enormous loss. This is a small gesture, but I hope an important one to demonstrate that BC Hydro supports Indigenous communities in this time.

As President & CEO of BC Hydro, I have the responsibility to ensure my colleagues understand the gravity of this situation. The conversation began on Friday but will continue for months and years to come and will certainly extend through our work with Indigenous Nations.

I know Lindsay Thompson reached out to you on Friday. I want to reiterate that if you and your community need anything during this time to please let me know.

Sincerely,



Chris O'Riley

c: Lindsay Thompson, Director, Indigenous Relations