



June 2, 2021

Dear Chief Jacobsen and Council.

Okanagan College respectfully acknowledges that our Salmon Arm campus and Revelstoke Centre are located on the traditional and unceded territory of the Secwepemc, and that our Vernon, Kelowna and Penticton campuses are located on the traditional and unceded territory of the Silyx Okanagan people.

On behalf of Okanagan College and the Board of Governors, we have extended our condolences and deepest sympathies to the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc community in response to the tragic confirmation of the remains of 215 children buried in unmarked graves at the site of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School. Knowing that the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc are not alone in this grief, nor the lasting impact of residential schools as recorded by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, we also wish to extend our condolences and sympathies to all the survivors within your community who are affected by this discovery and who continue to suffer the intergenerational impacts of residential schools. Our hearts continue to go out to you during this difficult time.

We are profoundly saddened by the indescribable loss, indignity, and injustice of these actions, and recognize that the ripple effects have been felt and will continue to be felt across generations in your community.

Please know that the people of Okanagan College grieve with you, and that we hold you in our thoughts. Flags at Okanagan College campuses will be flown at half-mast in memory of those who lost their lives and in recognition of the survivors and all those affected. And in the immediate days to come, we will continue to connect Okanagan College students and employees with the supports available to help all who are mourning, suffering and triggered by these events.

Working with and learning from the Indigenous community is very important to our College. We are dedicated to ensuring that this two-way process of listening, learning and working together will continue to grow and develop, as we continue to infuse Indigenous ways of knowing and doing into every aspect of what we do at Okanagan College with the guidance of Indigenous communities. We understand that this means walking the walk as it pertains to reconciliation.

As a society, days like today are a sad and stark reminder that we still have much further to go on the path toward reconciliation – and that this work toward reconciliation must never stop. Okanagan College remains steadfast in our commitment to being an ever more accessible, welcoming, supportive and inclusive place to learn and work.

If there is anything we can do to support your community, please do not hesitate to reach out.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gloria Morgan".

Gloria Morgan  
Chair, Okanagan College Board of Governors  
Yawyawt all Xaxa7 t'e poonllp  
(Strong and Smart Juniper)  
Splatsina t'e Secwepemc

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neil Fassina".

Neil Fassina  
President, Okanagan College