June 21, 2021

Premier John Horgan
PO Box 9041 Prov Govt
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E1
premier@gov.bc.ca

Dear Premier John Horgan,

Health Sciences Association is the union representing 22,000 specialized professionals working in health sciences and community social services in British Columbia. Our members work at every level of BC's public health care system, and provide supportive services in communities across the province.
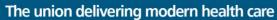
HSA members are deeply affected by the recent discovery by Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation of unmarked graves for more than 215 children on the grounds of the former residential school in Kamloops. We believe more must be done, and without further delay, to recognize the trauma Indigenous Peoples in Canada suffered as a result of the residential schools system, trauma which continues to devastate across generations to this day. And to make this recognition meaningful, it is time to take action.

HSA has therefore reached out to the federal government to call for immediate steps to address the 2015 Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action #71 to 76, which address the need to recover missing children and burial information. We have also called on the federal government to immediately stop fighting residential school survivors and Indigenous children in court.

We now call upon the provincial government to support the actions above, and in addition, to work with all other levels of government to investigate deaths in residential schools according to the desire of each community.

This is a shattering time for Indigenous Peoples in our country. But it is also a dark moment for all of us as British Columbians, and as Canadians. We urge you to show the leadership that is needed

at this time, and take the steps above as necessary and minimal conditions for the healing that is needed.

Sincerely,

Kane Tse
President
HEALTH SCIENCES ASSOCIATION OF BC

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