

**From:** [Prime Minister | Premier Ministre](#)  
**To:** [Jennifer Willoughby](#)  
**Subject:** Office of the Prime Minister / Cabinet du Premier ministre  
**Date:** Saturday, July 17, 2021 10:48:22 AM

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Dear Mayor Mills:

On behalf of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, I would like to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence regarding the recent discovery of unmarked graves found near former residential schools grounds.

Our government is devastated to learn of the ongoing discoveries of unmarked graves on or near former residential school grounds. Our hearts are with the community and all Indigenous Peoples across the country during this deeply emotional and traumatic time as they mourn those innocent souls from their community and others who did not return home. The tragic findings are part of a larger tragedy. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) brought to light the truth about Canadian history and what took place at residential schools. The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation was established and is now responsible for the Student Death Registries. Since Budget 2019, we have been engaging with Indigenous communities impacted by residential schools on how best to proceed with implementing Calls to Action 72 to 76.

The loss of children who attended Indian Residential Schools is unthinkable and Canada remains resolved to supporting families, Survivors and communities and to memorializing those lost innocent souls. Our government is profoundly aware that identifying burial locations of children who died while attending residential schools is fundamental to being able to, through ceremony, recognize these lost children and honour them. Our Government is here to support every community that wants to do this work and for us to support the healing.

Thank you once again for sharing your concerns and for writing to the Prime Minister.

Please accept my warmest regards.

Sincerely,

Jean-Luc Marion  
Senior Manager - Prime Minister's Correspondence

>>> From : Jennifer Willoughby [jwilloughby@shelburne.ca](mailto:jwilloughby@shelburne.ca) Received : 29 Jun 2021 03:27:38 PM >>>

>>> Subject : Town of Shelburne Resolution - Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada >>>>

Dear Right Honourable Justin Trudeau:

On June 28, 2021, Council for the Town of Shelburne passed the following resolution regarding the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation report released in December 2015:

Motion #9  
Moved By Councillor Kyle Fegan  
Seconded By Councillor Walter Benotto

Whereas, In December 2015, The Truth and Reconciliation Commission released its final report including 94 calls to action directed to governments at each level to further reconciliation between Canadians and Indigenous peoples;

And Whereas, In light of the unmarked graves being discovered on the properties of the Kamloops and Saskatchewan Residential Schools; we must move our Country and our Governments beyond words of condolences and toward actions that advance truth and reconciliation. We must recommit to advancing the calls for action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, these actions must be far reaching and must work to advance access to housing, clean water, prosperity and justice for all indigenous people, in partnership with Indigenous communities;

Now therefore be it resolved, That Council refers the nine calls to action that were directed at municipal governments to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee for further consideration and asks that the Committee report back to Council with recommendations for implementation of those calls to action which are locally applicable;

And that, The Town of Shelburne, in a unified stance with our indigenous neighbours, do hereby call on the federal and provincial governments to honour the calls to action directed at those levels of government;

And that, this resolution be forwarded to the following:

- \* Office of the Prime Minister of Canada, Rt Hon. Justin Trudeau
- \* Office of the Premier of Ontario, Hon. Doug Ford
- \* Dufferin Caledon MP Kyle Seebach
- \* Dufferin Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones
- \* All Dufferin County municipalities

CARRIED, Mayor Wade Mills

Thank You

Jennifer Willoughby, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk  
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jwilloughby@shelburne.ca<<mailto:jwilloughby@shelburne.ca>>  
Town of Shelburne I 203 Main Street East, Shelburne ON L9V 3K7  
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The Town of Shelburne is proactively taking measures to limit the spread of COVID-19. Staff continue to work however there is no public access to Town Hall until further notice. While every effort will be made to support pick up scheduling Monday to Friday, appointments for 'curbside pick-up' will generally be scheduled on Tuesdays and Thursdays for such services as recycling and compost bins. We are encouraging everyone to take advantage of the digital processes. The best way to reach staff is by email. You can pay your bills online by visiting our webpage Paying My Bills<<https://www.shelburne.ca/en/living-here/paying-my-bills.aspx>>.

Thanks and stay healthy!.

From the County of Dufferin:  
Good afternoon,

At the regular meeting of the County of Dufferin Council held on June 10, 2021 Council unanimously adopted the following motion:

WHEREAS a responsible Canada includes indigenous peoples from all across the nation, and

whereas Canada's indigenous peoples are entitled to the same rights and freedoms as guaranteed all under the charter of rights and freedoms;

AND WHEREAS "genocide" is defined as "the deliberate harm or killing of a large number of people from a

particular nation or ethnic group with the aim of destroying that nation or group";

AND WHEREAS residential schools existed for more than a century in Canada, the aim of which was to assimilate indigenous peoples into society and to destroy their indigenous identity;

AND WHEREAS the residential school system perpetrated a genocide on indigenous children the fullness of which is only now becoming evident;

AND WHEREAS the government of Canada and many of its churches were complicit in this national tragedy both by their actions and by their silence;

AND WHEREAS many churches excepting the Roman Catholic Church have already apologized for their role in the residential schools system;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the County of Dufferin demand that the Government of Canada in conjunction with Canada's indigenous people determine a plan to investigate all residential school sites as needed to find any of the lost or missing children;

AND THAT in the spirit of reconciliation the Roman Catholic Church be petitioned and/or legally compelled to provide the truth about actions taken as part of the residential school system;

AND THAT the Government of Canada demand in the strongest possible terms the release of all church documents in Canada and at the Vatican that pertain to actions taken at residential schools in Canada, and that Pope Francis, leader of the Roman Catholic Church offer an apology to the indigenous peoples of Canada for their actions;

AND FURTHER THAT the Government of Canada take all necessary steps to provide for equitable access for Canada's indigenous peoples to clean water, safe housing, health care, education and safety and security;

AND THAT this resolution be forwarded to the following:

- \* Office of the Prime Minister of Canada, Rt Hon. Justin Trudeau
- \* Office of Cardinal Thomas Christopher Collins, Archdiocese of Toronto
- \* Dufferin Caledon MP Kyle Seebach
- \* Dufferin Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones
- \* All Dufferin County municipalities

-Carried-