



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Statement from Archbishop Richard Gagnon on the Kamloops Residential School

On behalf of the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, I would like to express our deepest sorrow over the discovery of the unmarked graves of over 200 children at the Kamloops Residential School in British Columbia. This is a truly shocking event that touches the hearts of all of us but in a particular way, the people of the Kamloops Tk'emlups te Secwépemc First Nation and indeed First Nations People everywhere.

The trauma, sadness and on-going suffering experienced by many people, makes it very important that the truth about the Residential Schools be brought to the fore. Throughout the country, this recent discovery of the graves has ignited even more suffering and has reopened the wounds of many people.

The Catholic community of the Archdiocese of Winnipeg pledge their prayers and support for First Nations People throughout Canada, and we pray particularly for the children who have died at the Kamloops Residential Schools, other Residential Schools, and for their families who have long sought answers about what has happened to their children. We pledge to continue to walk the path of reconciliation and establish relationships built on Peace, Justice and Love.

Archbishop Richard Gagnon

Archbishop of Winnipeg