

Hi everyone,

I wanted to start this blog by further acknowledging the tragedy that has been uncovered in British Columbia.

Our community along with our country mourn the 215 indigenous children whose remains were recently found outside a residential school in Kamloops. There are no words that can capture the horror and grief that this situation has brought to light. My council and my community stand with you in your time of mourning. Sympathetic to your grief but knowing we can never understand the pain and suffering that you have experienced and continue to experience. This shines a light directly on a situation that needs to be recognized nationally and resolved in the same fashion in as quick a process as physically possible.

I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge that these schools were in every corner of the country including northern Manitoba and Saskatchewan and I know there are individuals within our community and region who are either direct or indirect victims of the circumstances that existed within the Residential School process. To you, personally, I send my sincerest condolences on behalf of myself and council. For too long we have turned a blind eye to the darkest parts of our history. Our hope is this tragedy will facilitate a quicker resolve to a historic situation that has been languishing for far too long.

On a final note, the pandemic is weighing heavily on everyone right now. I don't need to reiterate adhering to the basics but I would like to continue to encourage everyone to get the vaccinations that are being offered on a regular basis within the community. I honestly believe this is the primary factor to getting back to some sense of normal.

Do it for yourself, do it for your family, do it for your loved ones, do it for your friends, **do** it because you would like to travel or socialize!

I don't care why you do it but please just do it.

Be kind, be patient, most importantly, Stay healthy and stay safe.

Mayor Cal Huntley