



June 28, 2021

The Honourable Carolyn Bennett
Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Ottawa, Ontario,
Canada
K1A 0A6
carolyn.bennett@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister Bennett:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Canadian School Boards Associations, and its provincial member associations and trustees.

As duly elected education leaders throughout Canada, we call on you to increase support and attention to recovering the bodies of Indigenous children who were forced to attend residential schools. We appreciate the support to date but believe strongly that this must be an increased and ongoing priority for the federal government.

The Truth and Reconciliation 94 Calls to Action were released in 2015. The six Calls to Action related to Missing Children and Burial Information are very clear. We have had six years to act, and we contend that progress on these and most of the Calls to action has been inadequate. The recent discoveries in British Columbia and Saskatchewan have resurfaced trauma and loss for Indigenous Peoples and we need to demonstrate our commitment to fully acknowledging and addressing the real history.

We, as school system governors are committed to advancing Truth and Reconciliation, and we respectfully implore you to increase time and funding to ensure swift progress and increased support to Indigenous communities. We also encourage your ministry to work with both local and regional Indigenous Leaders to ensure an appropriate pathway to resolution.

Sincerely,

Laurie French
President CSBA