



United Way
British Columbia

Working with communities in
BC's North, Interior, Lower Mainland,
Central & Northern Vancouver Island

Statement of Support for Truth Finding Work

Acknowledgement is a key component of our reconciliation journey. For United Way BC, this means going well beyond land acknowledgements and making bolder statements that **recognize and validate** the experiences of Indigenous communities.

To that end, United Way BC stands in solidarity with the many Nations in BC who are leading the critical research on the sites of former Residential Schools, including:

- **Ahousaht First Nation**, at the former sites of the Ahousaht Indian Residential School and Christie Indian Residential School
- **Tseshah First Nation**, at the former site of the Alberni Indian Residential School
- **Williams Lake First Nation**, at the former site of St. Joseph's Indian Residential School
- **Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation**, at the former site of the Christie Indian Residential School
- **Sto:lo Nation Tribal Council**, at the former sites of St. Mary's Indian Residential School, Coqualeetza Indian Hospital, and All Hallows School
- **ᑭᐱᑭᐱ First Nation**, at the former site of St. Eugene's Residential School
- **Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc**, at the former site of the Kamloops Indian Residential School
- **Penelakut Tribe**, at the former site of the Kuper Island Residential School
- **Nadleh Whut'en First Nation**, at the former site of the Lejac Residential School
- **Namgis First Nation**, at the former site of St. Michael's Residential School
- **shíshálh Nation**, at the former site of St. Augustine's Residential School
- **Squamish Nation**, at the former site of St. Paul's Residential School

The work you are leading is of vital importance to our communities.

Last year, United Way BC staff were present to support an event hosted by [Xyólhmet ye Syéwiqwélh](#), the team conducting crucial work at former Residential School sites in Sto:lo territory. At this event, we distinctly recall an elder who spoke, asking, "How can we work towards reconciliation when the full truth isn't even out yet?" This was an important reminder to us that there is a great deal of truth-finding work that still needs to happen before reconciliation can fully be realized.

In recent months, we have become increasingly aware of efforts to minimize, and at times outright deny the evidence that you are bringing into the public light. We want to make it clear in no uncertain terms that we denounce these actions, and we call on all friends and allies to do the same. "This is the time for us to respectfully support the process, not to second-guess evidence that is being shared with us because it does not fit with the narrative we want to believe about this country's colonial history" says Andrew Callicum, Director of Indigenous Priorities with United Way BC.



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To the Nations who are leading this work, please know that we are here to support you. We stand with you in solidarity and are ready to offer our assistance if called upon.

“Addressing the inequities and injustices that have impacted and continue to impact First Peoples means we must identify and acknowledge colonial history and its effects,” says Michael McKnight, President & CEO, United Way BC. “United Way BC is committed to supporting Truth and Reconciliation and working with Indigenous communities and peoples as an ally. We unequivocally and humbly stand with Indigenous communities and First Nations in their quest for the truth behind Residential Schools.”

We are committed to finding ways to support a collective approach to relationship building and reconciliation, and we invite like-minded organizations to join us in our reconciliation journey as we begin to navigate the way ahead. We extend our hand in solidarity, recognizing that the path to reconciliation requires collective action and genuine commitment. Join us as we walk this path together, honouring the truth and supporting healing in our communities.