

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## In Honour of 215 Indigenous Children

Following the discovery of the bodies of 215 Indigenous children at a former Kamloops residential school on Tk'emlups te Secwépemc First Nation territory, flags at the Parksville Civic and Technology Centre were lowered to half-mast. To honour the children whose lives were tragically taken at the former school and the families and communities who are mourning.

To honour the lives of these children, a memorial has been set up at the Cenotaph on Craig Street adjacent to the Parksville Civic and Technology Centre. A simple, quiet **recognition will be held at 3 pm today, May 31**. We encourage people to visit the memorial over the next few days, to pay respect for the lives lost, reflect on this horrific discovery, and the healing that is so very important.

Flags will be flown at half mast and the evening lights at the PCTC will glow orange until June 9.

The Kamloops residential school operated between 1890 and 1969. The federal government took over the facility's operation from the Catholic Church and ran it as a day school until it closed in 1978. Survivors have been speaking up about life at the school, and the disappearance of children while they lived there.

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For more information:

Deb Tardiff, Manager of Communications

dtardiff@parksville.ca; 250 954-3073







