



# Diocese of Prince George

## Office of the Bishop

June 1, 2021

The discovery of unmarked graves of children at the site of the former Kamloops Residential School is a national tragedy. Disrespect shown for the lives of indigenous children and their families reflects the racism that often influenced public attitudes and federal government policies in the last century. On behalf of everyone in the diocese, I offer prayer for the eternal repose of these innocent children and for their families who mourn.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission asked the federal government for an accounting of those who died while attending residential schools. The involvement of the provincial coroner's service now may help supply the facts we do not yet have and provide some measure of peace for the families.

Confronting the past, however painful, is a necessary step on the path of reconciliation and healing among all who call this country home. We implore God's mercy for those who suffered and ask for the grace to work for respect for every life.

**Bishop Stephen Jensen**