



## **The Cambridge Neighbourhood Organizations statement on the discovery of mass grave on the site of the former Kamloops residential school**

The Cambridge Neighbourhood Organizations mission is to collaborate to benefit our members and our communities through relationships of support, shared information, resources and a collective voice.

The CNO has taken the time to reflect upon the two hundred and fifteen children that were discovered at the mass grave site of the former Kamloops residential school.

We did so with intention, so that, as a network and as people living in this nation; we can continue to pave a path toward reconciliation and reflect on our participation in the perpetuation of white supremacy and the effects of colonialism in our communities. We recognize the effects of colonialism are ongoing and isn't a part of history, and action is needed by the various structures and systems in Canadian society, and our organizations.

We stand in collective grief with Indigenous colleagues and communities mourning the 215 children discovered at the former residential school in Kamloops, BC and hold space for the generational trauma that continues today.

The CNO is committed to the work of ensuring our policies value and honour diversity, equity and, inclusion; mutual positive regard and neighbourhood civic engagement. We are accomplishing this by prioritizing professional development and training as a network by engaging with local experts whose expertise and lived experiences reflect issues of racism and oppression of racialized and Indigenous people.

We are a network that has credibility as grass-roots community developers who offer a wide variety of child and youth programming within the City of Cambridge and the Region of Waterloo. After reading the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Report we as a network are committed to call of action #66 where we call upon the federal government to establish multi-year funding for community-based youth organizations to deliver programs on reconciliation, and establish a national network to share information and best practices.

Our first step toward accomplishing this goal is to mobilize as a network and individual agencies to engage with Indigenous peoples within our communities to help inform the policies that we embed in our recreational programs. As community developers we hope to advocate for programs and funding that focus on reconciliation with the Indigenous communities who live, work, and play within the City of Cambridge and the Region of Waterloo.

We all have a responsibility to do the work to learn more about, advocate for, and reconcile with the Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island, which many know as North America.

For critical, credible and compassionate information please visit [www.OnCanadaProject.ca/SettlersTakeAction](http://www.OnCanadaProject.ca/SettlersTakeAction)

### **Next Steps:**

Learn about whose land you live on: [www.native-land.ca](http://www.native-land.ca)

Read the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's of Canada's Report which has 94 calls to action [www.trc.ca](http://www.trc.ca)