



IATSE LOCAL891

International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Moving Picture Technicians, Artists and Allied Crafts of the United States, its Territories and Canada • British Columbia and the Yukon

IATSE Local 891 Statement

Kamloops Residential School Discovery

The discovery of the mass grave at the Kamloops Residential School, containing the bodies of 215 children, is a horrible reminder of the threat to life, and discrimination, Canada has committed against the Indigenous, First Nations, Inuit and Metis people of this land. Although the Residential School system finally ended in 1996, there continues to be systemic inequalities that continue to harm Indigenous communities today. Many of the Residential School system survivors are still alive today and dealing with the trauma inflicted on them as children.

Our hearts go out to all survivors of the residential school system, particularly the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation, whose unceded territory the school operated on until 1978.

To the Indigenous members of IATSE Local 891, we cannot begin to understand the pain and trauma this news will have caused. If you need assistance, the National Indian Residential School Crisis Line is available 24 hours a day at 1-866-925-4419.

IATSE Local 891 is committed to reconciliation with the Indigenous nations. We call on all levels of government and every non-Indigenous resident of the unceded territories to work towards reconciliation and implement the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation. You can begin with resources from The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation [here](#). You can donate to support the work of the Indian Residential School Survivors Society of BC [here](#).

There are further reading and resources that we can use to educate ourselves on the work we must all commit to doing.

- The statement from the [Office of the Chief of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation](#).
- [Tweet thread from Indigenous leader and Squamish nation spokesperson Khelselim](#). Outlining the calls to action explicitly relating to the treatment of Indigenous children.
- [Indigenous Awareness Training](#) to further our knowledge.
- We must call on the government to stop using legal technicalities to avoid the obligations we have to Indigenous children, as explained in this piece by [Cindy Blackstock](#).
- Watch the film [Indian Horse](#), which was directed by Stephen Campanelli.
- The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's [94 Calls to Action](#).

IATSE Local 891 stands with the Indigenous, First Nations, Inuit and Metis people on their land. We must work to support them in ensuring their rights are acknowledged, and the Truth and Reconciliation report's [94 calls to action](#) are realized in our lifetimes.

In Solidarity,

IATSE Local 891