

UCW June 2021 Newsletter



**Join us on Monday, June 7th at 7:30 p.m. for the
Zoom UCW June General Meeting**

Please join us as we welcome Liz Ballantyne-Jackson of the Guatemala Stove Project. We are excited to have someone who has participated in some of the charity's projects speak to us.

<https://guatemalastoveproject.org/programs/>

***Some things make our hearts sing!
Other things make our hearts ache deeply!***

215 unmarked graves of children on the grounds of Kamloops Indian Residential School makes all our hearts ache unbearably. I, for one, am deeply ashamed that individuals with authority and responsibility for innocent children did this. We did this! We react in horror hearing of killing fields, kidnapped girls and genocide worldwide. BUT we did this -- Canada did this to indigenous children and their families. **What can we do? Listen to their stories - Read their stories - Educate ourselves - Be Open - Learn.** Your UCW supports the statements that the United Church of Canada is making to Indigenous families.

In June let's make it our mission to learn more about indigenous history and the United Church connection. <https://united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/reconciliation-and-indigenous-justice>

UCW donations can be made year round via **eTransfer** to ucwfinance@rideaupark.ca

Cheques may be made payable to:
Rideau Park UCW

RSVP to our **June 7th Zoom General meeting**: let Nancy McPherson know if you plan to attend by e-mail to ucw@rideaupark.ca A Zoom invitation will be forthcoming nearer the date.

Suggested donation for June meeting
\$20

June is National Indigenous History Month

"Reconciliation requires not only atoning for the past but also working to change present structures." UCC June 2, 2020

Kairos Canada is another website worth checking out.
<https://www.kairoscanada.org/what-we-do/indigenous-rights>

**University of
Alberta offers a
free course -
Indigenous
Canada.**

**You can register
now!**
12 modules

[https://
www.ualberta.ca/
admissions-
programs/online-
courses/
indigenous-canada/
index.html](https://www.ualberta.ca/admissions-programs/online-courses/indigenous-canada/index.html)



“June 2 is the *sixth* anniversary of the **94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC)**, addressing the history and legacy of Canada’s Indian Residential Schools system. The United Church of Canada operated 15 residential schools, accounting for 10 percent of students, all of whom suffered cultural loss and many of whom were subject to physical, sexual, and other forms of abuse in the schools.

On that day *six* years ago, we and the other churches that ran the schools acknowledged our part in this “assault on Indigenous families, culture, language and spiritual traditions,” and said that “we continue to share a responsibility to ensure that the task of reconciliation does not end today.” This would not have happened if it were not for the action of residential school survivors.” *United Church of Canada*

NAFC statement on discovery of 215 children at Kamloops Residential School

“The National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) offers our deepest condolences to families and communities of the 215 children recently found at the site of the Kamloops Residential School and all those impacted by the Canadian residential school and day school systems.

We honour the wisdom and work of Tk’emlups te Secwépemc to find these children. This is a profound discovery that advances the work of reconciliation in the most meaningful way and that happened because of your foresight and efforts.

“The large scale of the discovery is a shock to us all, but unfortunately, not a surprise to many” said Jocelyn Formsma, NAFC executive director, “We respect and uphold the stories from survivors who told us that there were more of their friends, family members, and schoolmates to be found. The reality is that this is not just a chapter in Canadian history, the legacy of these schools continues to permeate the lives of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples every day.”

On behalf of our members, the NAFC wishes to acknowledge the personal and collective grief that we, as Indigenous peoples, are all experiencing, we recommit ourselves to doing our part to advance the rights of Indigenous children, and **we call on our partners and all governments to the following actions:**

- Read or re-read the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and related reports: <https://nctr.ca/records/reports/>
- Review the TRC Calls to Action and recommit to their implementation: https://ehprnh2mwo3.exactdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf
- Support Orange Shirt Day: <https://www.orangeshirtday.org/>
- Commit to child welfare reform in ways that uphold the rights of Indigenous children, and
- Develop a national Indigenous child wellbeing framework that reflects the diversity of Indigenous children in Canada.

There is a National Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line at 1-866-925-4419 available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, if you are ever in need of emotional support.”