



Statement on Kamloops Indian Residential School

The Ontario Music Educators' Association Board of Directors recognizes the importance of the discovery of 215 children buried in mass graves at Kamloops Indian Residential School on May 27th 2021. This is a reminder of the historic and ongoing genocide against Indigenous peoples in Canada and the effects that colonization continues to have on our Indigenous students, families and communities. We at the OMEA support the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action](#) as well as the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#).

It is possible that the sharing of this information may provoke upsetting feelings with students and colleagues, particularly those who identify as Indigenous. Support is available through the Indian Residential School Survivors Society (1-800-721-0066) for those in need. Indigenous youth can also request to speak with an Indigenous crisis responder at Kids Help Phone by texting 686868. We also know that learners may have questions about the events and that OMEA members may have different levels of comfort and experience with these topics. We have included a list of a few resources below to assist you in these conversations.

The OMEA is already in the process of creating music education resources that not only acknowledge the harm of settler colonialism in the past and present, but also celebrate Indigenous musics, cultures, and joy. We are working alongside Indigenous community partners and hope to continue building holistic relationships of trust with Indigenous communities, practices, and ways of knowing and doing. We are committed to this ongoing work and encourage our membership to reach out to us if you have questions or need support with this work in your own teaching and learning environments.

Resources

<https://legacyofhope.ca/wherearethekids/> Legacy of Hope Foundation - Stories of Residential School Survivors

<https://www.nccie.ca/> - National Center for Collaboration Indigenous Education - Lesson Plans on Residential Schools

<https://www.trentu.ca/education/resources> - Indigenous Education Resources