



Secretariat

PRESS RELEASE

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CNS Calls for emergency Intergovernmental Summit Residential School Killings

Olympia, Washington USA 8 July 2021 – The Congress of Nations and States (CNS) issued a statement calling on the governments of First Nations and Canada to convene an emergency Intergovernmental Summit with the Catholic Church of Canada on growing evidence of residential school killings. CNS is established to serve as the international institution. It was formed for indigenous nations and internationally recognized countries to establish new international laws providing for implementation of principles and commitments nations and states have made over the last fifty years.

The CNS Statement was transmitted in letter to Canada’s Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and to the Archbishop of Winnipeg Reverend Richard Gagnon, President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops; Cowessess First Nation Chief Cadmus Delorme, Tkemplúps te Secwépemc First Nation Chief Rosanne Casimir and Canada’s Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Carolyn Bennet.

Meeting in Executive Session the Congress of Nations and States issued a statement calling for and emergency Intergovernmental Summit. The Summit, according to the Statement urges that First Nations in Canada and the Government of Canada with the Catholic Church of Canada to convene an emergency intergovernmental summit to conduct a “complete investigation of the missing and unexplained killings of Indian children assigned to residential schools since 1889.”

The CNS Statement urges the parties to “right the wrongs” and establish a mechanism for the Governments of First Nations and the Government of Canada to engage as political equals. And that the Summit and mechanism should follow six specific guidelines to conduct investigations and determine what happened at the residential schools and hold perpetrators accountable.



Statement of CNS Calling for First Nations, the Government of Canada and the Catholic Church of Canada to Convene an Emergency Intergovernmental Summit

Hosted internationally to investigate and hold accountable perpetrators of Nations' and Métis Residential School Killings in the State of Canada alleged to have occurred between 1889 and the present.

Statement issued by the CNS Executive Session

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The Congress of Nations and States (CNS cnsint.org) calls on the government of Canada and the governments of First Nations to immediately convene an emergency Intergovernmental Summit inviting the Catholic Church of Canada to establish a joint mechanism to investigate and hold accountable fully and completely the perpetrators of the First Nations and Métis children's killings and forced missing reported at residential schools managed by the Catholic Church of Canada. The Congress of Nations and States urges that a neutral international host serve to facilitate an impartial Intergovernmental Summit (including First Nations, Métis, the Government of Canada, and the Catholic Church) engaging as political equals to formally establish an intergovernmental mechanism to conduct a full and complete investigation of the missing and those unexplained killings.

The Congress of Nations and States Secretariat calls on all First Nations and Métis to exercise their inherent governing authority to participate in the investigations as equals. We urge the Tkemplúps te Secwépemc and other nations with missing children or children who were placed in the Kamloops Indian Residential School. In addition, the Cowessess First Nation in Saskatchewan and other nations with missing children or children who were placed in the Marieval Indian Residential School between 1899 and 1996 that was under the control of the Catholic Church of Canada. And, the Lower Kootenay Band would be invited with nations and bands having missing children or children placed in the St. Eugene's Mission School between 1912 and the 1970s where 182 unexplained burials have been found.

We note that Tkemplúps te Secwépemc and Cowessess First Nations have already begun taking steps to investigate and document the missing and the unexplained deaths.



Since there are more than 130 other residential schools it is essential that all residential schools in Canada fall under the investigations. It is imperative that the communities, First Nations and families affected by the discovered and potential deprecations committed against native children and others are fully informed and satisfied with the findings of investigations and determinations made regarding accountability.

We note that the nations and Canada joined by the Catholic Church occupy much of the same territorial space and political space thus demanding recognition of mutual political equality. The Congress of Nations and States urges that the parties engage and work now to right the wrongs done moving beyond reconciliation to construct a new framework on the basis of comity:

- Demonstrating respect for nation and state governing institutions,
- Political equality where all sides engage in an atmosphere without intimidation,
- Early disclosures of information about actions of governments and the Catholic Church of Canada,
- Share information in a form and manner acceptable to all parties,
- engagement in negotiated agreements on a mechanism and procedures for determining accountability with findings made to the satisfaction of families, communities and First Nations, and
- including enforceable agreements overseen by an agreed third-party guarantor.

We call on all parties to engage in a spirit of honor to respect the governance and authorities of nation governments and the government of Canada joined by the Catholic Church of Canada to conduct investigations and establish accountability that meets the standards and requirements of nations and states and the affected families of missing and killed children.