



## *Tkemlúps te Secwépeḿc*

(Kamloops Indian Band)

### OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

April 10, 2024

#### **Honouring the courage of Indian Residential School Survivors and their families by upholding the truth of their lived experience and calling out misinformation**

Today, Tkemlúps te Secwépeḿc (TteS) turns our attention to Ahousaht First Nation, who after almost 3 years of careful planning and action, are sharing about “ʔahʔiiḥčá p ʔukʔił ʔiqḥmuut (Honouring our Ancient Ones) with the world today. They are providing an update on their investigation about children who never made it home from two residential schools that were located in their territory.

Ahousaht does so knowing that there are people intent on ripping into this most tender of moments – with total disregard, even contempt, for the families of missing children as well as Survivors affected.

This was brought to the forefront of what the Lhtako Dene have been dealing with these past weeks. On behalf of TteS Council I extend our heartfelt gratitude for their leadership. Chief Clifford Lebrun called out the clear intolerance, disrespect, and dismissal of Survivors' lived experience. I am touched by the willingness of Lhtako Dene Indian Residential School Survivors that stepped forward in Quesnel Council Chambers to share their traumatic lived experience in such an open forum.

Time and again, Survivors have shown incredible courage to step forward. They were pivotal to the National Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Recently, in British Columbia, they stepped up again – such as the Lhtako Dene Survivors speaking in Council Chambers in Quesnel, the Survivors who helped the Ahousaht investigation or the Survivors who have shared vital information in our investigation of the Kamloops Indian Residential School. Now is the time for allies to be unrelenting in upholding the truth and calling out misinformation.

Yours truly,  
**Tkemlúps te Secwépeḿc**

Kúkpi7 Rosanne Casimir (Chief)  
On behalf of Council

#### **Background:**

- [Letter to Quesnel City Council from Lhtako Dene \(via My Cariboo Now\)](#)
- [Letter to Quesnel City Council from Kukpi7 Willie Sellars \(regarding St Joseph's Mission- where many Lhtako Dene members attended\)](#)
- [Write up about Ahousaht First Nation - their hina tuh mahs suwa \(invitation to you\) for April 10 investigation update as featured in their tribal newspaper](#)
- [Quesnel Board of Education reaffirms commitment to the Truth & Reconciliation's Calls to Action](#)
- [UBCIC strongly condemns residential school denialism being advanced at municipal level](#)