

Statement from The Compassionate Friends of Canada on Residential Schools

Although The Compassionate Friends does not engage in political debate, we would like to express our sympathy and condolences, empathy and understanding from one group of grieving parents and families to another.

The recent discovery of unmarked graves containing the remains of children at a former Indian Residential School in Kamloops BC and the announcements by various governments to initiate formal searches at other locations have triggered shock, outrage, and an outpouring of empathy across the country.

As bereaved parents who know the pain of loss, we bow our heads in compassion and sadness for the First Nations families who are re-living their painful history. The death of a child is a tragedy that no parent should have to experience, and the circumstances of these deaths are especially troubling.

The Compassionate Friends is an international, volunteer-based, peer-support organization providing understanding and support to parents and families grieving the death of a child from any cause and at any age from infant to adult. For the past 40 years, the Compassionate Friends of Canada has provided a safe place for bereaved parents and siblings to share their stories with others who truly understand their grief journey. For more information and to find a chapter near you, please visit our national website www.tcfcanada.net.

“We need not walk alone.”