

For Immediate Release | May 28, 2021

## Offering condolences to the Tk'emlúps community

### **Interior Health: Dr. Doug Cochrane, board chair and Susan Brown, president & CEO**

On behalf of everyone at Interior Health, we offer sincere and heartfelt condolences to the Tk'emlúps community and all communities connected to this residential school. This news has brought back memories for so many families, and the grief is beyond measure.

To everyone who is impacted, please know Interior Health stands with you humbly, and that we support you. We are committed to working with our partners at First Nations Health Authority and with Aboriginal leaders and communities across the Interior region, to ensure necessary supports and resources are available as they are needed.

Interior Health acknowledges the significant trauma and devastation that has been experienced and which continues to be experienced by First Nation, Métis and Inuit peoples across our country. We are renewed in our firm commitment to work toward a future where all children, and all people, are loved and treated with respect.

### **First Nations Health Authority: Colleen Erickson, board chair and Richard Jock, CEO**

The recent announcement of the discovery of 215 bodies found buried on the grounds of the former Kamloops residential school is extremely painful to First Nations people in BC and in particular the Tk'emlúps community and in the communities that had members attend this residential school.

During this difficult time, the FNHA and Interior Health are actively working together with stakeholders and health partners, and have mobilized additional resources locally to support the Tk'emlúps community and others as circumstances unfold. Immediate supports have been identified through our regional teams, including counselling and health care resources.

Dedicated supports that can be accessed by phone include the KUU-US Crisis Line, Tsow-Tun-Le-Lum Society and the Indian Residential Schools Survivors Society. Contact information for these support services can be found on the [FNHA website](#).

In this moment our thoughts and prayers go out to the people of the Tk'emlúps First Nations and to all traumatized by hearing of this devastating news.