

Your Name Here

Date

Your contact info (optional)

To (*PREMIERE/MLA/MAYOR/ETC*),

I am writing to you today with a plea for action rooted in justice. For over 150 years the Canadian government has benefited from the use of land, space, and resources that resides on the land and territories - many of which are unceded - of first nations and indigenous peoples.

Given the recent discovery of 215 bodies of children (some as young as three years of age) on the grounds of the Kamloops Residential School, I am writing specifically to you today to ask that you as a member of government do *something*; something tangible, more than a few words on social media or in an interview. The history of Residential Schools can not be separated from our government and this country's history.

Now, I am aware that you reading this letter may not be personally responsible or bear any genealogical connection to those who abused power and the name of government and law. However, you reading this are in a position of power and influence *because* of the cruel history of the government in this country – it is harsh to hear, I know. My aim is not to offend but to speak openly and honestly about the accountability we need to take as a community. You are connected to a body of people who can do much with the resources they have. Much work has been done by the indigenous community to lay out plainly what it is that they require from those in power to start the journey towards healing (94 Calls To Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada; Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls) and there is much we as a community can do to support them and heed their calls to action.

It is time we do more than we have done before. It is time we actually support these communities and take responsibility for what it means to be a colonizer.

Actionable steps I would like to see from our government:

- Professional and sensitive excavation of all residential school sites
- Formal investigations into finding those who were in charge and power over these schools to hold them to account
- Invest into first nations and indigenous communities in ways that *they* see as beneficial and necessary
- Increase funding to mental health and support resources for communities affected by the past and current trauma caused by our government, law, and faith institutions

Please feel welcome to reach out to me if you would like to continue this conversation.

With sincerity, brokenness, and awaiting your action,
(*YOUR NAME HERE*)