



## Caldwell First Nation

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May 30, 2021

### *Open Letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau*

Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A1

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

On behalf of Caldwell First Nation, we call on Prime Minister Trudeau to lower the flags of this country and declare a National Day of Mourning for our children.

A mass grave containing 215 children was discovered on the site of a former Residential School in Kamloops, British Columbia and is just another stark example of the violence inflicted upon Indigenous people. In addition to being forcibly removed from their families and communities, many children in residential schools faced brutal physical, emotional and sexual abuse, were deprived of food and proper nutrition, and suffered high rates of death. These children were loved and should never have been removed from their families.

Caldwell First Nation will have a period of mourning and recognition for these children by wearing orange and lowering our flags. We will do this for 215 hours – one hour in honour of each of the innocent and loved souls who were buried and treated in such a vile and unfathomable way. We encourage and ask that all Canadians do the same in recognition of these innocent children who suffered at the hands of the Canadian Government's Residential Schools which were funded by the Department of Indian Affairs and run by Christian churches.

The number for the National Indian Residential School Crisis Line is 1-866-925-4419.

Sincerely,

Robyn Perkins  
Councillor, A/Chief

James Peters  
Councillor

Stan Scott  
Councillor

Steve Simpson  
Councillor