



VANCOUVER  
COLLEGE

Exploring Truth & Reconciliation at Vancouver College

May 31, 2021

The horrific discovery of the remains of 215 children on the grounds of a Kamloops residential school has left all of us heartbroken. As a faith and learning community, it is our obligation to not only express our compassion, but also our shame at this unimaginable part of our history.

As educators grounded in the principles of Blessed Edmund Rice and the Essential Elements, we stand in solidarity with those marginalized by poverty and injustice. This week, we take action to acknowledge this truth as a community by:

- Our flag will remain at half-mast
- On Monday, May 31 at 2:15 pm, we will join Catholic Schools across Metro Vancouver in two minutes of silence to pray for the souls of those 215 children
- As a school, we invite everyone on campus to wear orange shirts (instead of their uniform) tomorrow, June 1, in recognition of our solidarity with the people of Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation and our own brothers & sisters of the Musqueam Nation on whose land we reside, work, and pray
- Orange ribbons will be distributed to students, which they may wear all week
- Conversations and discussions of Canada's colonial history will be forefront this week and will continue in our classrooms in the future

Above all, we will pray together for the souls of the 215 children who died while attending the Kamloops Indian Residential School, their families, and their community. We also pray for the wisdom to know how to learn from these past mistakes and for healing as we move forward.