

LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS OF ODAWA INDIANS

7500 ODAWA CIRCLE
HARBOR SPRINGS, MI 49740

DECLARATION

**Statement of Mourning and Acknowledgment of the
215 Missing Indigenous Children found in the unmarked graves at
the Kamloops Indian Residential School**

A Declaration is a formal written public statement in support or opposition of an issue or matter. Declarations shall be approved by Tribal Council motion.

The Waganakising Odawak is a nation of citizens with inherent sovereignty and right to self-governance; and

The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians is a federally recognized Indian Tribe under Public Law 103-324, and is a party to numerous Treaties with the United States the most recent of which being the Treaty of Washington of March 28, 1836 (7 Stat. 491) and the Treaty of Detroit of 1855 (11 Stat. 621); and

In accordance with the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Constitution:

“ IN THE WAYS OF OUR ANCESTORS, to perpetuate our way of life for future generations, we the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, called in our own language the WAGANAKISING ODAWAK, a sovereign, self-governing people who follow the Anishinaabe Traditions, Heritage, and Cultural Values, set forth within this Constitution the foundation of our governance.

We will work together in a constructive, cooperative spirit to preserve and protect our lands resources and Treaty Rights, ... In keeping faith with our Ancestors, we shall preserve our Heritage while adapting to the present world around us...” and

From our own experiences of boarding schools and those who have suffered the loss of life, cultural, spirituality and traditional-way of life, the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Tribe sets forth this Declaration to mourn and acknowledge the 215 children found in the unmarked graves at the Kamloops Indian Residential School.

We grieve the loss of Indigenous children and those in particular found on the grounds of the Kamloops Indian Residential School, Canada.

An estimated 150,000 Indigenous children passed through residential schools between their opening, around 1883, and their closing in 1996, with 10,000 or more generally known as the “missing children”. The missing children who never returned to their families after being sent to residential schools.

In the United States, thousands of native children attended boarding schools from the late 1880's through 1983. The last boarding school to remained in operation was located on our own reservation, Holy Childhood of Jesus Indian Board School. It closed its doors in 1983. Our history tells us that an unknown number of Anishinaabek children "walked on" while attending this school.

The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Tribe express our sorrow for the families and ancestors of the 215 children found in the unmarked graves at the Kamloops Indian Residential School. We understand this pain, having a similar institution in our homelands.

The undersigned Tribal Councilors and Tribal Chair declare a Statement of Mourning and Acknowledgment of the 215 children found in the unmarked graves at the Kamloops Indian Residential School.

A copy of this Declaration is on file at the Tribal Council Legislative Office.

Motion approved by Tribal Council on June 10, 2021, by:

Emily Proctor, Legislative Leader
Marcella Reyes, Treasurer
Tamara Kiogima, Tribal Councilor
Melissa Pamp, Tribal Councilor
Marty Van De Car, Tribal Councilor

Julie Shananaquet, Secretary
Fred Harrington, Jr., Tribal Councilor
Fred Kiogima, Tribal Councilor
Leroy Shomin, Tribal Councilor
Regina Gasco Bentley, Tribal Chair

