



**Statement from the Board Chair
Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools'
Board of Trustees
Marieval Indian Residential School Burial Site
[June 24, 2021]**

Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools' (GSACRD) Board of Trustees joins Canadians across this country in mourning the 751 Indigenous lives whose remains were discovered in unmarked graves near the former Marieval Indian Residential School site located on the Cowessess First Nation in Saskatchewan.

Our Board of Trustees expresses its profound grief, shame, sympathy, and solidarity with the survivors and victims of the Marieval Indian Residential School, the residents of Cowessess First Nation, and all of our First Nations, Inuit, and Métis brothers and sisters in our communities, as well as across this province and country.

The news of this heartbreaking evil exacerbates the immense trauma, pain, anger, and sorrow that so many families, residential school survivors, and others with close ties to residential schools have already experienced following the tragic news that the remains of 215 children were found buried on the site of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in Kamloops, BC ([Statement from the Board Chair](#)). As more residential school sites in Canada are scanned, such rightful heartbreak and trauma may rise to unfathomable levels.

Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools remains committed to meaningful reconciliation and healing by strengthening our precious relationships with our local Indigenous communities. Our Elders and Indigenous leaders are helping us move together – continuously, proactively, and intentionally – towards healing. Our *Education for Reconciliation* consists of two active committees: our [First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Advisory Committee](#) and our [First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Leadership Committee](#). The committee members, with their diverse identities and backgrounds, are collaboratively focused on working together to understand and carry out the *Education for Reconciliation* strategies that form part of the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action \(2015\)](#).

We understand that the news of these recent discoveries may be triggering for many within our faith-and-learning community. If you need support, please reach out to the [National Indian Residential School Crisis Hotline \(1-866-925-4419\)](#).

Noreen Radford, Chair
Board of Trustees
Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools
June 2021