

Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools

St. Gabriel Education Centre Parking Lot Extension

Metis Local 1904 St. Albert – Sturgeon County



Traditional Land Use Report

Submitted by: Metis Local 1904 St. Albert - Sturgeon County

Submitted to: Dr. Clint Moroziuk – Superintendent of Schools

Greater St. Albert Catholic School Request for Engagement

On June 29, 2021, Superintendent of the Greater Catholic Schools Clint Moroziuk reached out to Metis Local 1904 St. Albert -Sturgeon County (ML 1904) with a request to engage on a Traditional Land Use study for a proposed parking lot extension immediately behind the St. Gabriel Education Centre.

The St. Gabriel Education Centre is located across the street, immediately south of the old Youville Residential School. With the recent discovery of unmarked graves in Kamloops BC and Cowessness SK, the Superintendent wanted ; ***“to ensure that we are engaging in due diligence in light of the current situations in the news and the misinformation in the public about the residential school location in St. Albert”.***

Metis Local 1904 St. Albert – Sturgeon County

The St. Albert-Sturgeon County Métis Local was developed in 2016 as a means to recapture and preserve the city’s rich Métis heritage. The mandate of the Local is represented by the four pillars Elders, Youth, Community and Culture. We are committed to the past and future generations; instilling in them pride for their heritage and culture.

For this engagement request the Residential School Unmarked Graves Steering Committee met and assigned the following elders and area knowledge holders to begin the research required and examine the possibility of unmarked graves at the St. Gabriel Education Centre site.

Cultural/Traditional Knowledge Holders

- Elder – Gary Gairdner
- Area Knowledge Holder – Gwen Crouse
- Area Knowledge Holder – Sharon Morin
- Area Knowledge Holder – Joshua Morin

Local Administrative Support

- Bruce Gladue
- Kerri Randolph

Elders and Area Knowledge Holders Site Visit

The Elder and Knowledge holders met at the St. Gabriel Education Centre site on July 4, 2021. Research notes were shared and historic and current maps reviewed with the general consensus that it would not appear to be a location where there might be a concern of unmarked graves.

Conclusion

It was felt that ground truthing with penetrating radar should be done to confirm the findings of the Traditional Knowledge holders, that no unmarked graves exist and the paving for the parking lot expansion can proceed.

We understand the radar work has been completed. That report along with this report combined provide the collective comfort required in that Metis Local 1904 St. Albert – Sturgeon County can say with confidence that we find no reason to suspect the area of the proposed parking lot poses any risk of unmarked graves.

Elders and Knowledge Holders

Gary Gairdner

Gwen Crouse

Sharon Morin

Joshua Morin

(original signed by all)