

**Tasha Buchanan**

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**Subject:** Canada Day

**Mayor Stamer and Council Members,**

Chief and Council of the Simpcw First Nation acknowledge and thank you for the goodwill exemplified with the cancellation of the Canada Day Parade in respect of the 215 children who rest in unmarked graves on the lands of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School. Subsequent locations of additional graves at residential school sites in BC and across the country are opening up painful wounds for Indigenous people. We acknowledge that the announcements are also painful for citizens alike.

It has truly been a challenging time for the members of the Simpcw community who are survivors, and their descendants, of the residential school system. The losses are painful and we are grieving. Celebrating during this time is not something we can do.

We are planning Me7 Kukwetemctem re Stsmemelt – We will walk for the Children – a three day event from July 20 – 22 2021, which will begin in Kamloops and culminate with a walk from Fadear Park in Barriere to Simpcw on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021. Simpcw would be honoured if members of your Council and community could participate on the last leg of our journey from Barriere. We will ensure to send you more information once the plans are finalized.

In friendship,

**Kukpi7 (Chief) Shelly Loring**  
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