

*Check against delivery

Permanent Mission of Canada
to the United Nations
and the World Trade Organization



Mission permanente du Canada
auprès des Nations Unies
et de l'Organisation mondiale du commerce

HRC47

21 June 2021

Item 2 – Interactive dialogue with the High Commissioner

Canada thanks the High Commissioner for her report.

For this dialogue, we would like to focus on Canada's own human rights situation.

Recently, the remains of children were located near the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia. What happened in Kamloops is neither an exception nor an isolated incident. Over decades, thousands of Indigenous children were taken and sent to residential schools, where they suffered severe injustices and mistreatment.

We acknowledge that Canada has historically denied the rights of Indigenous peoples through assimilationist policies and practices. As Prime Minister Trudeau recently stated, we also acknowledge that Indigenous peoples still face systemic racism, discrimination, and injustices.

We know that the world expects Canada to adhere to international human rights standards. We, too, expect no less of ourselves.

We remain steadfast in implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission *Calls to Action*, the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, and addressing the issues identified in the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' *Calls for Justice*. We are also committed to supporting survivors, their families, communities, and all those impacted by the legacy of residential schools. We continue to renew nation-to-nation relationships with Indigenous peoples based on the affirmation of rights, respect, cooperation, and partnership.

Be it at home or abroad, we believe that reckoning with past human rights violations and abuses, engaging in meaningful dialogue, and working together as partners are foundational to creating more inclusive societies where all can fully enjoy their human rights.