

Dear Minister Lecce,

In 2018, your government cancelled a plan to update the Ontario curriculum with Indigenous content. In light of the recent discoveries of the mass grave of 215 children at the former residential school in Kamloops, and the graves of 751 children at Marieval Residential School, I am writing to ask that your government reverse this decision and reinstate the plan.

The education of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students about Indigenous history and experience was central to the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. It is incumbent on your government to uphold these recommendations – now more than ever.

Indigenous students in Ontario deserve to have their history told, their voices heard, their stories honored and their cultures recognized and respected. This is necessary to their health and well-being and to the health and well-being of their families and communities.

Non-Indigenous students need to better understand the history of Indigenous people, their experiences of colonization, and the history of residential schools in particular. Deepening their understanding of Indigenous cultures and knowledges is also necessary to the urgent task of combating anti-Indigenous racism and fostering respect.

It is certain that more graves at residential schools will be uncovered and more stories of abuse and mistreatment will be brought to light. We must not turn away. One way in which your government can honor the children who died in those residential schools is to ensure that students in our schools today know about them. It is only through directly confronting the truth of the injustices of the past that we can hope to address the continuing injustices that Indigenous people face in our present. Education is crucial to this work. Please reinstate the plan to update Ontario's curriculum with Indigenous content.

Sincerely,

Name

Address