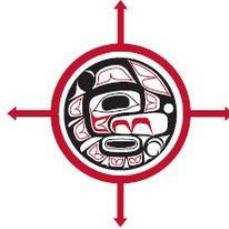


# OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

FOUNDING HEAD OFFICE  
209 - 345 Chief Alex Thomas Way  
Kamloops, B.C. V2H 1H1  
Tel: 250-828-9746  
Fax: 250-828-0319



VANCOUVER OFFICE  
401 - 312 Main Street  
Vancouver, B.C. V6A 2T2  
Tel: 604-684-0231  
Fax: 604-684-5726  
1-800-793-9701  
Email: [ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca](mailto:ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca)  
Web: [www.ubcic.bc.ca](http://www.ubcic.bc.ca)

## **Statement**

January 25, 2023

### **UBCIC Stands with Williams Lake First Nation and all Residential School Survivors amidst Results of Phase II Geophysical Investigation into St. Joseph Mission Residential School**

(x<sup>w</sup>məθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tseil Waututh)/Vancouver, B.C. – January 25, 2023) The Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) shares heartfelt prayers for comfort and healing with all those impacted by the Williams Lake First Nation (WLFN) announcement detailing the results of their Phase II Geophysical Investigation into the former St. Joseph Mission Residential School, detailing 66 new reflections which display characteristics indicative of potential human burials. Phase I of the WLFN Geophysical Investigation announced 93 reflections this time last year in January 2022.

We stand with the survivors who were forcibly taken to one of the region's most notorious Residential Schools that operated for nearly a century. We raise our hands to Chief Sellars, the Williams Lake First Nations administration, community members and investigative team for their diligence, care, and leadership and offer our support and steadfast commitment to stand behind BC First Nations seeking justice, accountability and healing.

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Media inquiries:  
Brandon Hoffman, Marketing & Communications Coordinator  
p. 250. 296.3507 ext. 185  
e. [Brandon.Hoffman@wlfm.ca](mailto:Brandon.Hoffman@wlfm.ca)

For Interviews with Chiefs Willie Sellars  
Maggie Berns, Executive Assistant to the CAO & Chief  
p. 250.296.3507 ext. 138  
e. Maggie.Berns@wfn.ca

General Inquiries about the SJM Investigation  
Whitney Spearing, Lead Investigator  
p. 778-417-0196  
e. Whitney.Spearing@wfn.ca

Dominique Melanson, SJM Investigation Administrative Coordinator  
p. 778.417.0198  
e. dominique.melanson@wfn.ca

*UBCIC is an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.*

For more information please visit [www.ubcic.bc.ca](http://www.ubcic.bc.ca)