



# The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

## Office of the Mayor

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Mayor Gary McNamara

June 29, 2021

To all Tecumseh Residents:

On behalf of Council, I wish to make a statement on the tragedy of continued uncovering of unmarked graves of children of the former residential school system. While the [Truth & Reconciliation Commission final report](#) (TRC, 2015) initially identified this tragedy and confirmed the identities of 4,117 children who died while attending residential school, as these unmarked graves are discovered the anguish of grief and loss experienced by Indigenous people is now triggered more broadly within Canadians.

Canada's Indigenous communities need our support and our compassion at this moment. Let this Canada Day symbolize a new start to stand by the survivors of residential schools and their descendants and help them on their healing journey. As outlined by the TRC, these unmarked graves are part of the truth we are asked to witness and learn about.

We, here in Tecumseh, have a special honour of being named for the Shawnee Chief Tecumseh, a very brave man who played an integral role in the War of 1812 that saved our part of Canada and cost him his life. I invite you to read his [wise words](#) this Canada Day and appreciate his contributions to the lives of Canadians and the history of a country we all call home.

This Canada Day, take a moment in silent reflection to honour those who have passed and think of ways to open our hearts and minds to a better future built on reconciliation.

Sincerely,

Gary McNamara  
Mayor