



June 24, 2021

Statement on the Discovery of Unmarked Gravesite Near the Marieval Indian Residential School

Today, it was reported by Cowessess First Nation that 751 unmarked graves were found on the grounds of the former Marieval Indian Residential School in Saskatchewan. This is a dark reminder of how the residential school system has systematically dismantled Indigenous culture here in Canada. Nothing can be said to ease the suffering of families and friends who survived the on-going trauma of residential schools.

Along with the discovery in British Columbia, this is yet another reminder that we must engage in genuine reconciliation through action. ASEC stands shoulder to shoulder with those who have been affected by the residential school system. We commit to remembering the lives that were lost and honouring the lives still being impacted.

As Canadians, we have a responsibility to ensure that education is accessible to all, without any bias to culture, religion, creed, sexual orientation, or race. ASEC commits to stronger advocacy when it comes to meeting the educational needs of Indigenous students. Providing the necessary support, both in funding and opportunities, is only one step on a path towards a bona fide reconciliation process.

As individuals and post-secondary students, we must learn to listen and understand our past mistakes, and commit to making change through action.

ASEC encourages those affected by the residential school system, and are in need of support to reach out to the National Indian Residential School Crisis Line 1-866-925-4419.

ASEC exists to support post-secondary student leaders by providing advocacy, networking, and professional development. We represent over 110,000 students from university, college, and polytechnic associations. We work with all orders of government, and call upon them to not forget the failed lessons of the past and to never again repeat them .

Respectfully,
The Alberta Students' Executive Council Students and Staff.

