

Ramona Lumpkin  
President and Vice-Chancellor

Anne McGuire  
Chair of Board of Governors

Mount Saint Vincent University  
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Halifax, Nova Scotia B3M 2J6

Cc:

Amanda Dean, Vice-Chair of Board of Governors, MSVU  
Brook Taylor, Vice-President Academic and Provost, MSVU  
Mustansar Nadeem, Vice-President Administration, MSVU  
Patrick Small Legs-Nagge, Special Advisor to the President – Aboriginal Affairs, MSVU  
Delvina Bernard, EDIA Advisor, MSVU  
Derek Fisher, Associate Vice-President Research, MSVU  
Antony Card, Dean of Education, MSVU  
Carrie Dawson, Dean of Arts and Science, MSVU  
Kim Kienapple, Dean of Professional Studies and Graduate Studies, MSVU  
Tanja Harrison, University Librarian, MSVU

3 June 2021

### **MSVUFA Letter of Solidarity with Victims and Survivors of Residential Schools**

Dear Dr. Lumpkin, dear Ms. McGuire,

The Faculty Association at Mount Saint Vincent University, located on unceded Mi'kma'ki, offers its sincerest condolences to the Tk'emlùps te Secwépemc community members who are mourning the loss of 215 of their children, whose bodies were recently discovered in an unmarked mass grave at site of the former Kamloops Residential School. Unfortunately, such horrific discoveries are no anomaly; many residential schools had graveyards, the institutions deliberately obscured records, and many Indigenous communities have documented missing children. We write this letter in solidarity with all Indigenous children who attended Residential Schools and who were abused, neglected, and denied contact with their families and cultures. For all Indigenous families who had children stolen, and for those whose children did not survive the institutions, we are outraged and we demand accountability.

As scholars at Mount Saint Vincent University, an institution linked historically via our founding Sisters of Charity to the Shubenacadie Residential School (1930-1967), we recommit to sharing with our students the full history of residential schools, including the Shubenacadie institution. We recognize that residential schools are not just part of Canada's history – they remain embedded in our collective present, and their damaging impact reverberates to this day in Indigenous Nations of Turtle Island. We call on Mount Saint Vincent University to formally investigate its connections to the Shubenacadie Residential School and to join the handful of other Canadian universities that have apologized for their involvement in the Residential School System. Mount Saint Vincent University, founded and operated by the same religious order that staffed the Shubenacadie facility (as well as one in Cranbrook, B.C.), must uncover and acknowledge its connection to both the operation of the Shubenacadie Residential School and the decades-long effort to silence the voices of survivors and researchers. True reconciliation demands difficult conversations, and it requires that we publicly recognize and seek apology for Mount Saint Vincent University's contribution to the residential school system.

Sincerely,

Mount Saint Vincent University Faculty Association (MSVUFA)

*MSVU is in K'jipuktuk, part of Mi'kma'ki, the unceded and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq.*

*We stand in solidarity with Black Lives Matter and all those acting to oppose and dismantle systemic racism of all forms. We denounce police brutality and violence, especially that which targets Black and Indigenous peoples.*