



**Message from  
The Honourable Melanie Mark  
Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training**

**Opening of the Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre**

**April 9, 2018**

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Dear Friends,

I would like to acknowledge that the gathering today is on the traditional, ancestral, unceded territory of the Musqueam people.

For more than a century, the Indian Residential School system existed in Canada; it devastated individuals, families and communities with many of these effects persisting through this day.

To begin working towards true and lasting reconciliation, all Canadians must gain a clearer and more complete understanding of our shared past. The Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre at UBC is an important step along that journey.

Government is committed to adopting and implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action.

I hope this centre brings healing to those still dealing with the effects of this dark chapter in our history, and that for generations to come, the centre helps educate Canadians so history never repeats itself. And, I hope that together we can chart a path forward to a better future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Melanie Mark'.

Honourable Melanie Mark  
Hli Haykwhl Wii Xsgaak  
Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training