

.....

**QUOTES FROM INDIGENOUS
LEADERSHIP**

Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs

“We are encouraged to see this tangible commitment to reconciliation and we look forward to seeing First Nations lead the search and reclamation of our children who never made it home. We hope this initiative will bring much-needed closure and healing to the generations of families and communities who continue to be impacted. We continue to advocate for inclusion in all matters related to First Nations in Manitoba and on treaty lands and traditional territories, and this project is no exception. We expect genuine partnership and support as the searches continue and our children are finally brought back to our nations.”

— Acting Grand Chief Cornell McLean, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs

Manitoba Métis Federation

“The funding provided by Manitoba will assist us in our work to search for our children under the Pekeywaytahihnan nutr zanfaan leur zisprii (We are bringing our children’s spirit home) program. I want to thank Premier Stefanson and Minister Lagimodiere for their support as we advance reconciliation on behalf of Red River Métis residential school families and their loved ones. Our collective effort honours the memories of those souls who never made it home.”

— Andrew Carrier, minister responsible for Residential Schools, Manitoba Métis Federation

Manitoba Inuit Association

“Manitoba Inuit Association thanks the government of Manitoba for financial support that begins the work in bringing home our Inuit children who were stolen from their Arctic homelands and flown to residential schools as far south as Churchill, Manitoba. We commend the leadership of Minister Lagimodiere and his staff in the formation of the First Nations, Inuit and Red River Métis Council on Residential Schools and creating space for First Nations, Inuit and Métis leadership, survivors and knowledge keepers to lead the way to today’s announcement.”

— Marti Ford, president, Manitoba Inuit Association

“Today we amplify the voices of our little ones and honor their spirits as we commit to an Inuit-led approach that will return our children to their families and communities in Inuit Nunangat who grieve for them. We will commemorate and honour their lives through Inuit Qaujimaqatuaqangit principles and those of reconciliation.”

— Gayle Gruben, director of Inuit Missing Children from Residential Schools, Manitoba Inuit Association

Sioux Valley Dakota Nation

“Sioux Valley Dakota Nation acknowledges the financial contribution of the government of Manitoba towards Indigenous-led approaches to finding and memorializing missing children. As politicians and leaders change, our community, elders, survivors and partners will remain committed to the investigation of the cemeteries and unmarked graves at Brandon Indian Residential School. Sioux Valley Dakota Nation would also like to thank the elders and survivors for their significant efforts towards this work. There is more work to be done to bring truth to the atrocities afflicted on the children who are our parents, grandparents and great grandparents, and those children who never became parents, grandparents and great grandparents.”

— Chief Jennifer Bone, Sioux Valley Dakota Nation