



Every Child Matters: Praying for Healing and Hope

May 31, 2021

June is National Indigenous History Month, an opportunity to recognize and honour the history, heritage and diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples in Canada.

As an organization founded to support and strengthen the parent voice, OAPCE mourns alongside the Indigenous members of all of our parent communities and all Canadians upon the discovery of the bodies of 215 students in a mass grave at the Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia that closed in 1978.

As we mark the beginning of a time to engage and deepen our understanding of Indigenous communities and their contributions to Canadian society, we pray for truth and reconciliation. We pray for healing. We pray for hope that our Catholic schools, partners and communities across Ontario will continue to prioritize the support and delivery of Indigenous education and perspectives in a meaningful way that promotes respect, understanding and equality, and breaks down barriers of systemic racism and discrimination.

The hope of every parent lies in the future successes of their children. Education is the key. At OAPCE we are committed to our Indigenous parent communities and to help support educational communities where their children are respected, and their cultures and diverse voices are reflected.

“Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.”

As Ontario's parent voice association, the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) is the provincial voice that is authorized through the Education Act and Regulation 612, to represent families with children enrolled in the English Catholic education system. OAPCE is a vital connection between the Ministry of Education, Catholic District School Boards in Ontario, the Institute of Catholic Education, Ontario Catholic Trustees, Parish, Regional Parent's Associations, School Councils and other valuable parent groups, OAPCE elevates the profile of a publicly funded Catholic system of education by advocating for it, providing opportunities for ongoing information sharing, resources, learning, networking and community building.