



Penticton Indian Band

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snpink'tn Indian Band Stands in Solidarity with Tkemlúps te Secwépemc

snpink'tn (Penticton) Indian Band Chief and Council are deeply appalled by pictures and reports that a masked group, believed to be associated with white nationalist ideology, gathered on Tkemlúps te Secwépemc lands on Sunday, September 27, 2026

While some may dismiss this as a stunt designed to attract attention, provoke confrontation, and fuel controversy, it must be recognized as part of a much larger and more troubling pattern. snpink'tn Indian Band calls this out for what it is, a "Hate Crime". Across Canada, Indigenous Peoples continue to face increasing acts of slander, hatred, anti-Indigenous racism, and residential school denialism. These actions do not happen in isolation. They are encouraged and amplified by individuals, organizations, media platforms, and political movements that create space for misinformation, division, and the denial of the truths Indigenous People

This incident occurred just days before the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (September 30, 2026), a time when Indigenous Peoples and Canadians reflect on the legacy of residential schools, honor survivors, and remember the children who never returned home. For a masked group to enter lands connected to the former Kamloops Indian Residential School and attempt to intimidate a community at this time is cruel, disrespectful, and cowardly

In Recent years, we have seen a disturbing rise in efforts to question, diminish, or outright deny the experiences of residential school survivors. In June 2026, the Senate of Canada voted down a proposed amendment to Bill C-9, the Combatting Hate Act, which would have specifically criminalized Indian Residential School denialism. While this decision does not excuse the actions of those who spread hate, it highlights the ongoing challenges that our communities face in confronting misinformation and protecting survivors from further harm

Residential school denialism is not simply a disagreement about history. It is a direct attack on survivors, their families, and the truth. It retraumatizes those who have already endured profound loss and suffering. When denialism is left unchecked, it contributes to the normalization of anti-Indigenous racism and emboldens those who seek to intimidate Indigenous communities

snpink'tn Indian Band condemns this racism and bigotry and stands in full solidarity with Kukpi7 Rosanne Casimir, the leadership of Tkemlúps te Secwépemc, residential school survivors, intergenerational survivors, and all Indigenous Peoples who continue to carry the impacts of all colonial policies.

Truth must come before reconciliation. Reconciliation cannot occur when hate, denialism, and racism are allowed to flourish. We must confront these harmful ideologies wherever they appear and continue to educate, support one another, and speak the truth about our shared history

Racism and hatred have no place in Syilx Okanagan Territory or anywhere in this country. We call upon all levels of government, law enforcement agencies, community leaders, and our neighbours to stand with us and all Indigenous communities and take meaningful action when hate appears

On September 30, 2026, we will gather as we always do to honour survivors, remember the children who never came home, and reaffirm our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation. We will march together in solidarity, strength, and unity. We will not be intimidated. We will not be silenced. And we will not be made afraid on our own lands

limləmt. We stand together. We walk together.

**Snpink'tn Indian Band
Chief and Council**

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