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*Today, Canada is deeply saddened by the lost lives of 215 Indigenous children in Kamloops, British Columbia which were discovered in a mass, unmarked grave at a former residential school.*

*These schools were spread across Canada with an estimated 150,000 children being forced to attend. Of these, an estimated 6,000 children died attending these institutions.*

*In total 130 residential schools operated in Canada between 1831 and 1998. The first residential school opened in Canada here in Ontario, and The Mohawk Institute near Brantford accepted its first students in 1831. These facilities continued to run until 1996. Yes 1996, a mere 25 years ago!*

*We can safely state that tragically and in spite of this; a number of Canada's Indigenous Veterans attended these facilities.*

*Ontario Command of the Royal Canadian Legion stands with our Indigenous Peoples.*

Garry Pond  
Provincial President