



First phase of ground penetrating radar conducted at former Grouard Mission site

STATEMENT FROM KAPAWE'NO CHIEF AND COUNCIL

(October 21, 2021) Kapawe'no First Nation, Treaty 8 - From October 14 - 19, Kapawe'no First Nation led the search in partnership with Treaty 8 and the University of Alberta to conduct the first phase of ground penetrating radar at the former Grouard Mission site (residential school). The initial work conducted is to begin the search for children who never made it home from the institutions known as residential schools. This work is just the tip of the iceberg and the beginning of uncovering our truth.

We invited Dr. Kisha Supernant, Director of the Institute of Prairie and Indigenous Archaeology and an Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Alberta, and her team to complete the ground penetrating radar on sites we identified to date. Dr. Supernant will provide a report back to Nation leadership. Once we have time to review, we will provide a report back to Nation members, Treaty 8, media and general public before the end of 2021. We have partnered with the Sovereign Nations of Treaty 8 to take on this work despite not receiving funding from the federal or provincial governments to date. We are working collectively with Treaty 8 First Nation to advance this work as well as the other 10 residential school sites in Treaty No. 8 Territory.

This process is imperative to our collective healing and the initial stage of our grieving. We are honouring our Elders and all Survivors who bravely shared their truths of their lived experiences and those of their family and loved ones. The path we are on is emotionally, physically, mentally and spiritually difficult for our Elders and Survivors as their truths are finally unveiled and justified, and their experiences are acknowledged and validated. We listened, and the work to find our loved ones immediately commenced on the grounds surrounding the Grouard Mission sites. Kapawe'no led this work due to their proximity to the sites.

The work is still in progress and needs to be thoroughly analyzed. This will take time. We are all working together, please be patient - we are healing and awaiting the results of our search.

If you have experiences with Indian Residential Schools, Day Schools, and/or Indian Hospitals in Treaty 8 territory, the Sovereign Nations of Treaty 8 would like to hear from you. This work is ongoing. Please call 1-888-873-2898 or visit our [website](#).

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