

## How can we help Indigenous people at this time of sadness?

### Things we can do:

Don't say this is a problem of the past. This is untrue. This is unhelpful. This avoids facing the hard work that must be done by all of us.

1. Send a letter or sign this one to the Attorney General:  
<https://act.newmode.net/action/mumilaag-qaqqaq-mp-nunavut/demand-truth-and-justice-investigate-canada%E2%80%99s-crimes-against>
2. Read the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions final report recommendations.
3. Talk about this history with your children and grandchildren.
4. Learn what nations came before you on the land you live.
5. Learn about a residential school that was near you.
6. Since the discovery of the remains of the 215 children who were unceremoniously buried in unmarked graves at the Kamloops Residential School we have been asked by members of the congregation, "Where can we help financially?" After a great deal of thought, we would like to give you three suggestions.

### 1) Indspire

### 2) Water First

### 3) The Spirit Garden

If you would like to donate to any one of the three charities listed above, please send in your cheque or cash to Humber Valley and leave in the mailbox on Anglesey Blvd. or in the office.

Cheques should be made payable to Humber Valley United Church and the name of the charity written in the bottom left hand corner along with your envelope # if known. Please make sure your name and address, email address/phone # is also on the cheque.

For cash donations, make sure the same information is on the front of the envelope. Tax receipts will be issued for any donation over \$10.00.

### [1. Indspire | A richer life for Indigenous youth starts here](#)

<https://indspire.ca> (Humber Valley has supported Indspire for many years.)

Founded in 1985, Indspire is a national Indigenous registered charity with the charity's head office in Ohsweken, Ontario.

Indigenous people are under-represented in post-secondary education, with only 10% of Indigenous students completing university degrees compared to 27% of other Canadian students. For Indigenous people, lack of funding is one of the biggest barriers to completing post-secondary education.

Indspire helps First Nations, Inuit and Métis students in Canada complete their education by providing grants bursaries, scholarships, awards and other funding to complete their post-secondary education.

Their vision is to enrich Canada through Indigenous education and by inspiring achievement.

## 2. Water First

<https://waterfirst.ngo> (Humber Valley has supported Water First for many years.)

In numerous Indigenous communities across Canada, tap water is not safe to drink.

Many communities have identified the need for certified personnel to operate and maintain their drinking water treatment systems. Water First is Canada's leading charitable organization dedicated to working together with Indigenous communities to build capacity locally – collaborating to resolve both drinking water and environmental water concerns. Since 2009, Water First has partnered with 50 Indigenous communities in Canada on a variety of water education and training projects.

Through education, training, and meaningful collaboration, Water First is supporting sustainable water systems to last generation.

## 3) The Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre - Spirit Garden

<https://toronto.citynews.ca/video/2021/06/07/indigenous-spirit-garden-to-honour-residential-school-survivors-2/>

The Spirit Garden's initiative will develop the south-west quadrant of Nathan Phillips Square into a public space shaped by Indigenous peoples to provide education and build relations with the larger Toronto community. It hopes to open in 2023. ( See 'The Spirit Garden' article in this Connections.)

The Indigenous cultural space will honour our Residential School Survivors and cultural traditions. The project responds in part to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Call to Action 82, for governments to commission and install a Residential Schools Monument in each capital city to honour residential school survivors, and all the children lost to their families and communities.

The United Church has been in partnership with **The Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre** for a long time. It is a completely Indigenous-led organization.

Please contact Sally Jo Martin or Barbara Clarke for more information.