



**Canadian Rockies School Division**  
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September 27, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Canadian Rockies Public Schools will close schools on September 30th to honour the Survivors of the residential school system, as well as the generations of children, families, and communities who are suffering the devastating impacts of this system.

On September 29th, 2021, an educational afternoon of paramount importance will take place. CRPS staff and students will engage in learning from Stoney Nakoda Elders and youth, about the importance of Truth and Reconciliation for all peoples.

This afternoon, which was planned under the leadership and guidance of several Elders from our neighboring Stoney Nakoda Nation, will aptly begin with Elder's stories to educate staff and students about historical and current perspectives with regard to the residential school system, as well as the path forward through Truth and Reconciliation. Elders, as well as Stoney Nakoda youth leaders (who will be the emcees for the day) will be onsite at Canmore Collegiate High School, Elizabeth Rummel School and Exshaw School. In order to ensure safety within the current pandemic, a small number of staff and students will listen to the Elders face to face, but most will remain in their classrooms, listening to the Elder's stories via Google Meets.

The Elder's teachings will be followed by a student educational video which was created by Canmore Collegiate Indigenous students under the tutelage of their Elders. This video will teach others about their Stoney Nakoda culture and the students will also share what Truth and Reconciliation means to them.

The afternoon will close with a variety of different activities to support students with processing their learning from the afternoon, including reflective art and writing. Some schools will also host Stoney Nakoda dancing and drumming presentations. Students at ERS, BES, BCHS, LGMS, CCHS and Alpenglow will have the opportunity to sample traditional bannock and dried meat which will be prepared by Stoney Nakoda Elders and distributed to schools. Students at Exshaw School will partake of traditional bison burgers.

The CRPS Board of Trustees hopes that this afternoon of education and participation will further support staff and students in understanding the “truth” of the residential school system, as well as the critical importance of the 94 Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

We encourage staff, students and families to attend community learning opportunities and commemorative events that are planned for September 30th.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christopher MacPhee". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'C'.

Christopher MacPhee

Superintendent of Schools