



Williams Lake
FIRST NATION

**PRESS
RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ST. JOSEPH'S MISSION INVESTIGATION GEOPHYSICAL RESULTS

Chief and Council of the Williams Lake First Nation (WLFN) will be releasing the preliminary geophysical results from the first phase of the St. Joseph's Mission Residential School investigation on **Tuesday, January 25th, 2022**. This follows the announcement of December 7th, 2021, postponing the previously scheduled release of the results in order to give adequate time for neighboring First Nation communities to put in place the necessary health and wellness supports.

"We're grateful that we were able to complete the first phase of our geophysical research and will be in a position to have greater clarity about the results of the ground penetrating radar and other technical investigations," states WLFN Chief, Willie Sellars. "This has been an extremely challenging time for WLFN and other First Nations who were affected by the facility at St. Joseph's. We have out of necessity in the course of our investigation opened old wounds and asked people to recount some terrible and harrowing stories. But the information provided has helped shape our investigation and I'm thankful to make progress on this first phase of our work."

Prior to releasing the geophysical investigation results to the public, WLFN will be conducting a meeting with the Chiefs of the communities directly affected by the operations at St. Joseph's Mission. This meeting will take place on the morning of January 25th and will provide the Chiefs with an opportunity to ask questions of the technical experts involved in the first phase of investigations. This session is closed to the media and to the public, and attendance is by invitation only.

In the afternoon of January 25th, a formal press conference will be held to announce the preliminary results of the geophysical investigation. This will be followed by a brief question and answer session. The anticipated start time for this session is 1:00 pm on January 25th, at 2561 Quigli Drive. Any media outlets wishing to attend this session **must make arrangements in advance with the WLFN contact listed below**, as COVID protocols are in place and seating is limited.

"We know that everyone is eager to receive these results," adds Chief Sellars. "But we're asking that everyone be patient and respectful of the process. Our key concern is the mental health and welfare of the survivors of St. Joseph's, and that of their families. We're trying to conduct this process in as orderly a fashion as possible."

For further information on this media release, please contact Dominique Melanson at dominique.melanson@wlfn.ca or by telephone at 778-417-0198.