



**Williams Lake**  
FIRST NATION

April 5, 2024

**VIA EMAIL**

City of Quesnel  
410 Kinchant Street  
Quesnel, BC, V2J 7J5

Dear Mayor and Council:

**Re: Letter of Support – Lhtako Dene Nation / Residential School Denialism**

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The Williams Lake First Nation (WLFN) is writing to support the letters authored by Lhtako Dene Nation to the City of Quesnel, in denouncing the denialist literature being circulated by the Mayor of Quesnel, his wife, and any other persons.

As one of the designated lead communities in British Columbia, WLFN is directly conducting the investigative works into the St. Joseph's Mission Residential School (SJM), which is located outside the city of Williams Lake, near the community of Sugar Cane. Thousands of Indigenous students attended that institution over the span of approximately 100 years. Many of those students were taken from the communities of Lhtako Dene, Nazko Dene, Lhoosk'uz Dene, ?Esdilagh, and other communities on which the city of Quesnel and Cariboo Regional District are now located. Some of those students perished during their time at SJM and were never returned to their home communities and families. Nor did they receive proper ceremony and burial after their passing.

The denialist rhetoric being circulated in the form of the book Grave Error, and its distribution by the Mayor and local businesses, is profoundly disturbing. To put any modicum of reliance on such a diatribe is unfathomable. And the belief in whole or part, of such obviously false information, when the City and its leadership have access to the truth at their fingertips, from a community of Survivors who live in and support the City of Quesnel, is unconscionable. The traumatization of community Elders, Survivors, and the reopening of intergenerational wounds on the back of these actions is condemned by Williams Lake First Nation, and it's Chief and Council.

As such the WLFN SJM investigation team is requesting a meeting with the City of Quesnel, in order that timely and appropriate education on the SJM investigation, operation of the residential school at SJM, and impacts to the communities which surround the City of Quesnel can be laid out in a factual and impartial manner.

Sincerely,

**WILLIAMS LAKE FIRST NATION**

Per:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chief Willie Sellars

cc: Chief Clifford LeBrun, Lhtako Dene Nation  
Chief Leah Stump, Nazko First Nation  
Chief Lillian Squinas, Lhoosk'uz Dene Nation  
Chief Troy Baptiste, ?Esdilagh First Nation  
Margo Wagner, Cariboo Regional District