

# LHTAKO DENE NATION

(RED BLUFF INDIAN BAND)

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March 19, 2024

The Mayor and Council,  
City of Quesnel,  
410 Kinchant Street,  
Quesnel, British Columbia V2J 7J5.

Dear Mr. Mayor and Council:

It has come to our attention that a person related to a member of the City's elected has been distributing a book entitled: "Grave Error – How the Media Mised Us (And the Truth about Residential Schools)". This book makes many harsh comments including: "truth has been turned into a casualty", implying that cultural genocide did not occur, and basically questioning the existence of Indian Residential Schools.

The Nation should not have to defend the findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the T'Kemplups te Secwepem'c First Nation, and the Williams Lake First Nation (amongst others) that have been so severely castigated by the authors of the book. The calling into question of what our Nation went through is a slap in our people's collective faces and is very hurtful to them. The Nation has a significant number of members who suffered through attendance at a Residential School and today suffer through the long-term trauma of what they went through. The book adds to that hurt.

A major point made by the book is that "cultural genocide" did not occur at Residential Schools. "Cultural genocide" is defined by the Armenian Genocide Museum as: "Acts and measures undertaken to destroy nations or other ethnic groups' culture through spiritual, national and cultural destruction". In 2015, Chief Justice Beverly McLachlin of the Supreme Court of Canada stated that Canada's historical treatment of Indigenous persons was an attempt at cultural genocide and the worst stain on the Canadian historic record. **CULTURAL GENOCIDE DID OCCUR THROUGH PLACING INDIGENOUS CHILDREN IN INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS!**

We ask that the Mayor and Council reaffirm the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding between the City and us. We would also appreciate the opportunity to have some of our Elders, who experienced Residential School attendance, meet with the Mayor and Council to provide first-hand knowledge of the treatment they were subjected to and survived.

Yours truly  
Lhtako Dene Nation

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "City of Quesnel" or similar, written over a horizontal line.

cc: Mr. Dan Lowndes, Superintendent, School District 28  
Mr. Frank Peebles, Quesnel Cariboo Observer  
Mr. Tony Goulet, Executive Director, Quesnel Tillicum Society  
Chief Leah Stump, Nazko First Nation  
Acting Chief June Baptiste, Lhooskuz Dene Nation  
Chief Troy Baptiste, ?Esdilagh First Nation