



# Residential Schools Missing Children Community Support Funding

Our Gathering 2023 – Breakout Session





# Warning

- Please note that the content of this presentation will discuss the Residential School System. This information may be difficult to receive and/or trigger associated trauma for some.
- If you or someone you know is triggered while listening to the content on this presentation, please speak with the available wellness supports or call the Crisis Line at 1-866-925-4419.





# Presentation Overview

- Residential Schools Missing Children - Community Support Funding
- Types of Initiatives & Funding Streams
- Collaborating w/ Communities
- Funding Update
- Questions to Consider





# Residential Schools Missing Children Community Support Fund

- Guiding Principles:
  - Community-led,
  - Survivor-centric and
  - culturally informed

- Program Mandate:
  - locate, document, and memorialize burial sites associated with former residential schools, and honour families' wishes to bring children's remains home.

- Inclusive and open to all Indigenous communities, organizations and associations
- NOT limited to lead or care-taker communities of a particular residential school location.





# Types of Initiatives

# Funding Streams



**Community-based**



**Indigenous Representative Organization**



**Lead Investigation**

**Stream 1**  
Local research, engagement and knowledge gathering

- Community engagement
- Interviews with Survivors and their families
- Archival research
- Advisory committee
- Cultural support

**Stream 2**  
Memorialization & Commemoration

- Commemorative event
- Ceremonies
- Memorial structure, healing garden, etc.
- Video documentation
- Commemorative booklet

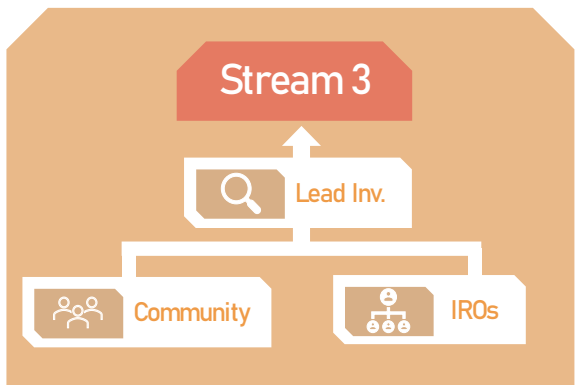
**Stream 3**  
Fieldwork Investigations

- Preparing area for investigation
- Field surveys and mapping
- Archaeological investigation
- Site security
- On-site ceremonies

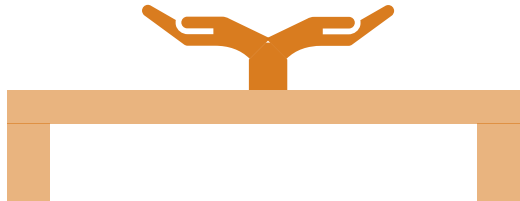




# Collaborating w/ Communities



## Stream 3 Fieldwork Investigations



The support of communities and Indigenous organizations is essential for conducting inclusive and comprehensive investigations.

### Stream 1 Local research, engagement and knowledge gathering

- Community engagement
- Interviews with Survivors and their families
- Archival research
- Advisory committee
- Cultural support

### Stream 2 Memorialization & Commemoration

- Commemorative event
- Ceremonies
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# Funding Update

## Quick Stats

- 58 fieldwork lead initiatives addressing 72 IRSSA schools
- 42 community-based initiatives
- 8 Indigenous Representative Organizations initiatives

Province & Territory	# of Eligible Schools*	% of Eligible Schools	Approved Proposal Amount (\$)	Funding Agreements in Place	% of Approved Funding
 Atlantic	6	4%	\$360,800	2	0.3%
 Alberta	25	17%	\$20,335,247	21	16.3%
 British Columbia	18	13%	\$30,247,500	22	24.3%
 Saskatchewan	20	14%	\$21,655,912	17	17.4%
 Manitoba	15	10%	\$9,113,874	13	7.3%
 Québec	12	8%	\$2,296,344	4	1.8%
 North (Territories)	33	22%	\$2,896,441	7	2.4%
 Ontario	18	12%	\$36,517,298	22	29.3%





# Questions

to

# Consider

- What are ways that your community could be meaningfully and respectfully engaged?

- What could be potential challenges that affect your community starting and/or working on an initiative?







# Thank you for your time

- Residential Schools Missing Children Community Support Fund contacts
  - Sarah Ferguson, A/Senior Program Manager, Programs Team, Residential Schools Missing Children Community Support Fund: [Sarah.Ferguson@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca](mailto:Sarah.Ferguson@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca)
  - General Inquiry Email (monitored daily): [enfants\\_disparus-missing\\_children@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca](mailto:enfants_disparus-missing_children@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca)
- Office of the Special Interlocutor:
  - Official Website: <https://osi-bis.ca>
  - This website will be updated with information about upcoming National Gatherings on Residential Schools Missing Children and Unmarked Burials.
- National Advisory Committee (NAC):
  - Official Website: <https://nac-cnn.ca>





# Our Gathering 2023

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May 16

Elder Henry Alexander  
Tamatha French



## Wilezdinih Residential School Community Initiative Presenters

### Elder Henry Alexander



Henry is a respected elder from Takla Nation and a Lejac Residential School Survivor. He is a hereditary chief and belongs to the Jilh Ts'e Yu, Frog clan. He is a proud father of five children and has several grandchildren and great grandchildren. He is loved by all in the community and is a role model to members and staff of Takla Nation. He enjoys his homelands of Old Hogum and has covered many miles of walking on the territory. He is very proud of the traditional teachings passed down from his parents David and Christine Alexander. You can find him hunting in the mountains of his "k'eyah" and still living the traditional way his family taught him. Henry is very inspirational to our people and youth, but most importantly he is a knowledge keeper and caretaker of the land. Henry has been instrumental helping direct, participate and collaborate with Takla's Residential School Program.



## Wilezdinih Residential School Community Initiative Presenters

### Tamatha French



Tamatha French is from the Gitksan Nation and sits with the Frog clan in the house of Nikateen. She is married into, and a band member of Takla Nation. She is a wife to hereditary leader Chief John French, and a proud mother of four children and three grandsons. Tamatha created and managed the Takla Youth and Elder Program since September 2019. Together with Takla's Residential school survivors and their families, Tamatha has helped create a Residential School Community Program which has now become her life's passion. She is grateful for the trust the survivors have placed in her to do this important work. She is dedicated to continuing developing the Residential School Program for Takla and help ease the effects of intergenerational trauma.



## Wilezdinih Residential School Community Initiative- Best Practices

- **Trusted Community Member to lead this important work.**
- **Start the process by interviewing survivors and base your workplan on their feedback and direction.**
- **Be prepared for negative feedback and apprehension from people who might oppose the work. Don't let it stop you as it's important for the health and well-being of future generations, so we don't burden them with the negative impacts of the Residential School Experience.**
- **Be open-minded to everyone's individual experience. Some will say it's a positive experience so respect that.**
- **Every community's experience is unique to them. Find ways to capture that uniqueness and help them see their strength and resilience.**
- **Where possible, reach out to neighbouring communities and include them in the work you do, whatever that might be.**



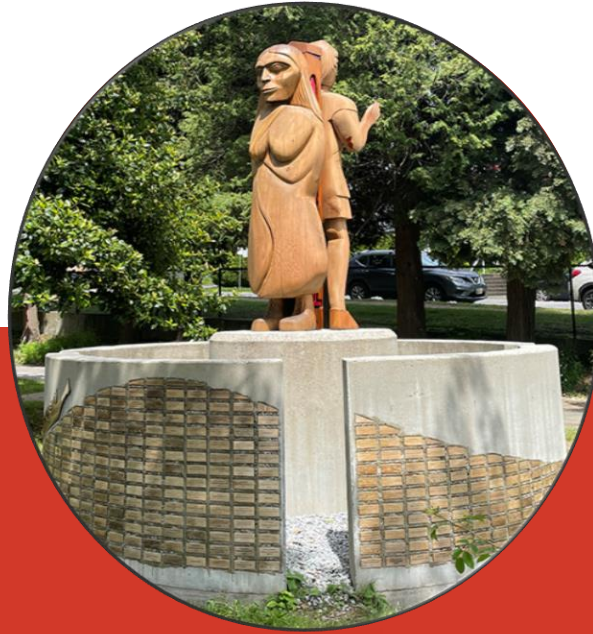
## Wilezdinih Residential School Community Initiative

If anyone is interested in Takla's Wilezdinih Residential School Work, please contact Tamatha French at

[yemanager@taklafn.ca](mailto:yemanager@taklafn.ca)

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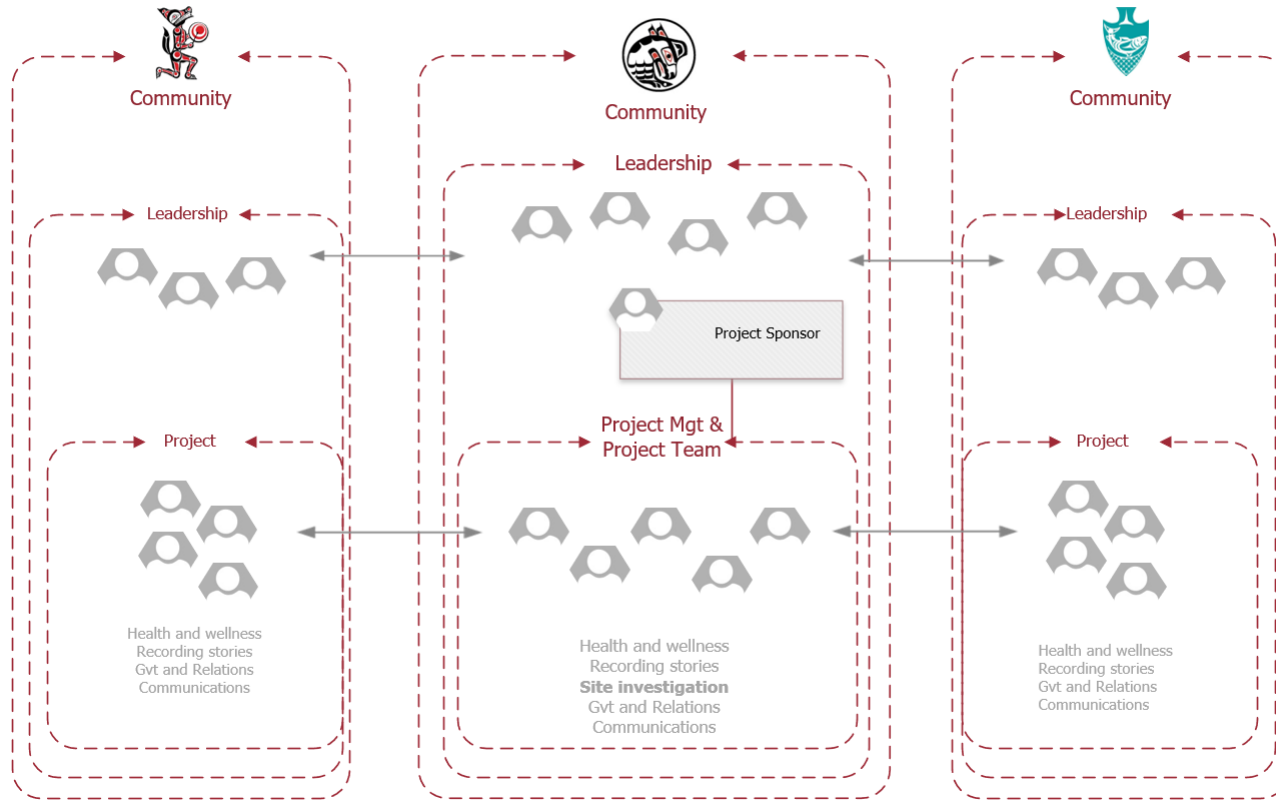


# Yúusnew'as

Taking care of each other

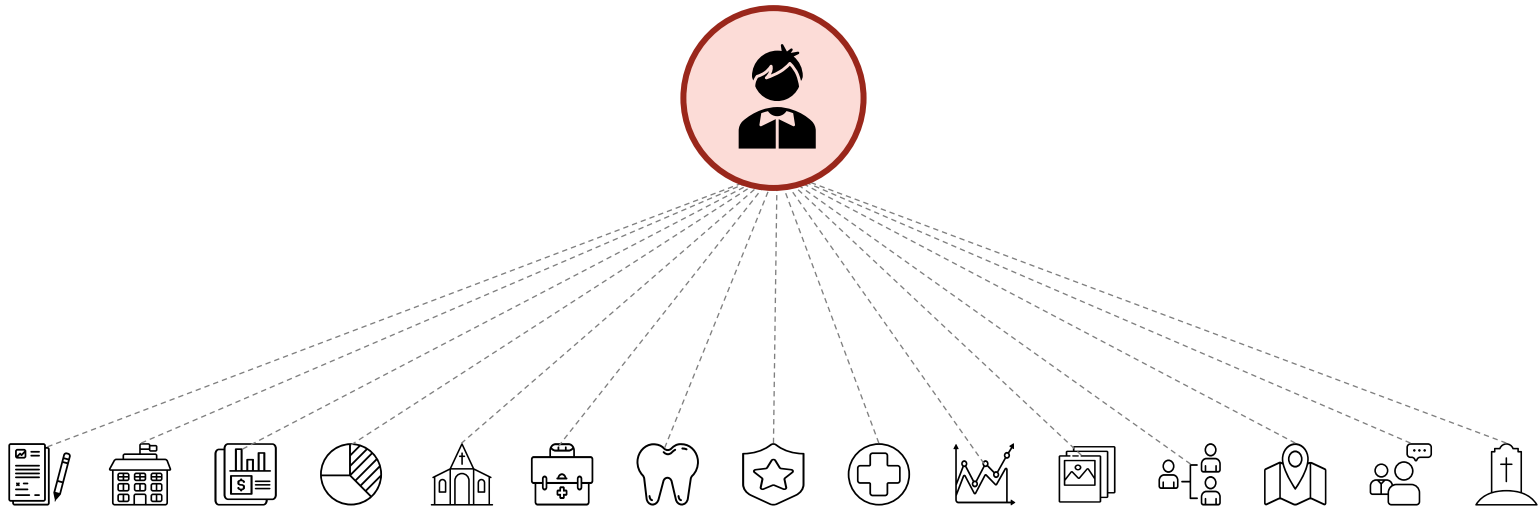
**Honouring all students who attended  
St. Paul's Residential School**

# Project Relationships Neighboring Communities





# Student Experience



Records with direct and indirect connections to the student experience

Communities are likely unaware of the schools and hospitals that their community members attended. Public data is only a partial view into the facilities history.





Every research project will uncover information that directly relates to distant communities.



# Collaborative Relationships

	Research Project	Communications Internal & External	Memorialization & Ceremony	Wellness & Health Supports
Lead Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data Analysis</li> <li>Field Work Analysis</li> <li>Lab Analysis</li> <li>Technology to Support Research</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key Messages to External Relationships Related to Investigation</li> </ul>	Community Owned Plan	Community Owned Plan
Shared	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share Findings and Factual Analysis</li> <li>Share Truths</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shared Press Releases</li> </ul>		
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recording Truths</li> <li>Family Research &amp; Genealogy</li> <li>Community Data</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Outcomes</li> <li>Key Messages Internal &amp; External</li> </ul>		

**Yúusnew's**  
**is**  
**supported**  
**through**  
**various**  
**grant,**  
**funds, and**  
**donations**

	Research Project	Communications Internal & External	Memorialization & Ceremony	Wellness & Health Supports
Lead Community	Missing Children Fund & Provincial		Missing Childrens Fund  Heritage Canada  NCTR NA-MI-QUAI- NI-MAK  Corporate & Private Donations	FNHA  Corporate & Private Donations
Shared				
Community	Missing Children Fund			