



East Scarborough

BGC East Scarborough

100 Galloway Road, Toronto, Ontario M1E 1W7



416-281-0262



info@esbgc.ca



www.esbgc.ca



416-281-0458

BGC East Scarborough is saddened and heartbroken to have learned about the burial site of 215 children on the grounds of Kamloops Indian Residential School.

As an organization, our mission is to provide a safe, supportive place for children, youth, and families residing in East Scarborough so they can experience new opportunities, overcome barriers, develop positive relationships and skills of life. We are shaken to know that each child has been taken from their family and a community that loved them forever.

BGC East Scarborough is committed and will continue to understand our past to create a better today, tomorrow, and future for our Indigenous communities and Indigenous children. We must take action and promise to speak up for the lost voices of children that never returned home.

As an organization, we will continue to provide interactive and collective opportunities to engage our Board of Directors, Staff, Volunteers, and Local Community in trainings, workshop, and interactive learnings rooted in cultural humility to expand our individual and collective consciousness and understandings of the experiences of the Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island. We will continue to build strong, genuine, and most importantly authentic relationships with Indigenous partners to further our learning and growth. Our reconciliation journey is not a one-day showcase, BGC East Scarborough strives to create a culturally safe environment for our Indigenous community, to ensure accessible, culturally appropriate services and referral for Indigenous children and families within East Scarborough.

Starting on June 2 for 15 days we will stop working for 2 minutes and 15 seconds to honour each child who did not make it home to their families.





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Please read our statement from BGC National:

Statement on Kamloops Residential School

Tk'emlúps te Secwèpemc First Nation [discovered an unmarked gravesite](#) at the Kamloops Residential School holding the remains of 215 children.

This is a horrific discovery, a tragedy of huge scale. Flags are flying at half-mast across the country, honouring these children who were ripped from their families, from their way of life, from their traditions and culture, and sent to residential school.

The story of the 215 children in Kamloops is one that was repeated over and over at residential schools across the country. These institutions cared little for the lives under their charge. We have always known there were deaths—those that were recorded and many more that were unrecorded. Children lost to disease, neglect, punishment, malnutrition, or from attempts to escape. The 215 lost souls are a stark reminder of how many children lost their lives, how many young people were tossed aside in the foul quest to “take the Indian out of the child.”

The tragedy of residential schools is not “history”—it is an ongoing trauma for families and communities. And it should be a wake-up call for all of us—a reminder that we must create a different future. We must do more.

National Indigenous History Month starts tomorrow. An opportunity for reflection and education—and for action. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s 94 Calls to Action remain unfulfilled. It is our collective responsibility to listen, to learn, and to act.

For all the children who were taken. For all that live today with the trauma of their past. For all who perished. For the 215.

**National Indian Residential School 24-hour national crisis line:
1-866-925-4419**

