



February 29, 2008

Kevin D. Annett  
on behalf of The Friends and Relatives of the Disappeared  
260 Kennedy Street  
Nanaimo, BC  
V9R 2H8

Dear Mr. Annett:

Re: Your Letter of February 8, 2008.

On behalf of Moderator The Right Reverend David Giuliano, and myself I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated February 8, 2008.

The United Church of Canada apologized to survivors of Residential Schools and their families in 1998. We have been working actively to live out that apology since that time. This work is far from complete, but it remains one of our highest priorities.

The United Church shares the concern expressed in the letter that the full story of what happened at the schools come to light. No one knows the full picture at this point. That is why the United Church has pushed for a Truth and Reconciliation Commission for a number of years. It is why we willingly committed to full disclosure along with the other signatories to the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement. It is why our archives have been open for years in support of families who seek information about family members. And it is why we are active participants with the Assembly of First Nations, survivor groups, other churches and the federal government in the Missing Children Working Group, which is undertaking research on the deaths and burials of students under the auspices of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We are committed to this work.

Our Archives remain open and accessible for research relating to residential schools, even as we are in the process of moving from one location to another.

We urge anyone with knowledge or evidence relating to deaths and burials related to our residential schools to share that information fully with us and anyone else concerned, and, as appropriate, to report it to the police, including the identities of all persons involved. We will cooperate fully with the investigation of any such allegations.

3250 Bloor Street West  
Suite 300  
Toronto, Ontario  
M8X 2Y4  
Canada

Telephone  
416-231-5931

Voice Mail  
416-231-7680

Toll Free  
1-800-268-3781

Fax  
416-231-3103

[www.united-church.ca](http://www.united-church.ca)



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In responding to the legacy of the residential school system, we will continue to be guided by the wisdom of our church's Aboriginal members, as well as by political, healing and survivor organizations of First Peoples in this country.

Yours truly,

Nora Sanders  
General Secretary, General Council