



Mikisew Cree First Nation gets set to embark on a painful journey of truth at the former sites of Holy Angel Residential School in Fort Chipewyan.

Fort Chipewyan, AB, November 22, 2021- Chief and Council of Mikisew Cree First Nation and MCFN Health Team continue to consult with the community as they prepare for the excruciating process of identifying what truth may lie beneath the former residential school sites in Fort Chipewyan.

Mikisew Cree First Nation partners with Metis Association (FCMA) and Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN) to uncover the truth in their community about possible burial and gravesites related to the Holy Angels residential school in Fort Chipewyan, Alberta.

The Holy Angels Residential School operated in Fort Chipewyan, AB from 1874 to 1974, for approximately 100 years. The old school sites were located on what is now the Mikisew Cree First Nation.

Chief Peter Powder, Mikisew First Nation said, “We are having ongoing conversations with our community members to ensure they have the support they need. We deal with the trauma every day and this process is triggering. We have to be mindful of how we approach this. This is essential to reconciliation however, we are taking the steps to use aerial photography and ground-penetrating radar to scan the area and we also must protect and shield our community from further harm.”

Elder, Rita Marten, agrees, “The pain is real and deep for residential survivors. They need to be nurtured and given a voice and they must trust someone is listening. We have to instil kindness and empathy in a process that has continually let them down. We should make sure grief counsellors are part of this process to ensure our people are protected from further trauma.”

A community meeting is expected to be held in the new year. Work at the site of Holy Angels Residential School will begin later in 2022. The deaths of 89 children attending the school between the years of 1880 and 1953 were confirmed by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

For information:

Serena Mah/Media & Communications Consultant

E: serena@serenamah.com/M: 780 982 5058/W:www.mikisewcree.ca