



EVERHART MUSEUM
NATURAL HISTORY. SCIENCE. ART.
est 1908

INSTITUTIONAL STATEMENT June 1, 2021

Indigenous Peoples' Boarding Schools

2020-2021

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RE: Recent news of discovery of 215 children found in unmarked, undocumented burial site at a former Canadian Indigenous residential school

News media around the world broke news of the discovery of 215 children found in an unmarked, undocumented burial site at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School, British Columbia, Canada. As with the many who have expressed an outpouring of grief over this discovery of the horrific treatment experienced by Indigenous peoples, the Everhart Museum's staff and board of trustees express profound sadness and offer condolences to those affected.

Museums like the Everhart have an important role in providing opportunities for the public to re-examine the past, consider the past's effect on the present, and pose questions for the future. Planned for more than a year, the Everhart Museum's upcoming exhibition *Away From Home: American Indian Boarding School Stories* runs from June 19 until August 16, 2021. The exhibition was adapted from the permanent exhibition organized by The Heard Museum in Phoenix, Arizona and explores the experiences of American Indians who endured the oppressive nature of the schools' purpose – to erase Indigenous people's cultural identity and in some cases the people themselves. These schools were prevalent in both Canada and the United States. In the U.S. these schools operated from 1879 to 1978. The first such school in the US operated in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. The Everhart Museum hopes that this exhibition brings to light a tragic part of our country's history.

The Museum values all peoples' cultural heritage and identity and reaffirms its commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Through its collections, programs, and exhibitions the Museum continually seeks to illuminate important topics in ways that enable greater understanding of and appreciation for all.