



January 26th, 2023

University nuxethot'jine thaa?ehots'j nistameyimâkanak Blue Quills (UnBQ) has not released a report of findings at the Blue Quills Indian Residential School site near St. Paul, and we apologize for any confusion that the media reports of January 24th may have created. We acknowledge the important work that acimowin opaspiw society has been leading on the former site of the Residential School on the Saddle Lake Reserve which was featured in media reports on Tuesday.

Following these reports UnBQ has received calls from survivors and others seeking information. To clarify, since May 2021 our search for unmarked burials on the grounds of the former Indian Residential School near St Paul has been guided by and reported through the governance, administrative, and decision making processes established by the Chiefs of the seven Nations that collectively own and govern the reserve lands and the University which operates there: Beaver Lake Cree Nation, Cold Lake First Nations, Frog Lake Cree Nation, Heart Lake First Nation, Kehewin Cree Nation, Saddle Lake Cree Nation, Whitefish (Goodfish) Lake First Nation. We are working with all of the Nations that now own Blue Quills, and we are reaching out to other Nations whose children were sent here from 1931 to 1970. Our work is open to anyone who is interested, and if you want more information or are interested in being involved regarding the St Paul site please contact us at bqirs@bluequills.ca or 780-645-4455.

All of our work is done in ceremony – in May 2021 we started with a four-day sacred fire with daily pipe ceremonies, and conducted a five-day ground search with daily ceremonies in August 2022. We have been and will continue hosting survivors' meetings, healing & support gatherings, ceremony, and additional ground searches. We will post a notice when we receive the results of the phase one ground search (expected in the spring) and decisions based on the findings will involve survivors as well as families of missing children.

Additional information is available at www.bluequills.ca/home/residentialschools