# THE SURVIVORS' SECRETARIAT STATEMENT ON THE FINAL JUDGMENT OF THE PERMANENT PEOPLES' TRIBUNAL

**Six Nations of the Grand River, October 2, 2026** – The Survivors' Secretariat and its Survivor Board of Directors stand with the findings and recommendations of the Permanent Peoples Tribunal. We agree that Canada is in a deliberate state of contempt before the international community.

***"The consistent pattern of conduct by Canadian authorities, including failing to sign and ratify some of the most relevant international law instruments, omitting explicit criminalization of the most serious criminal conduct under Canadian domestic law, specially genocide, enforced disappearances and apartheid ...places Canada in a deliberate state of contempt before the international community." Pg, 59***

The Secretariat and Indian Residential School Survivors provided testimony at the tribunal. The judgment sets out recommendations that address human rights violations. Recommendations related to the important-survivor led work into unmarked burials include:

***"Provide full, good faith, and sustained financial, technical and logistical support for survivor-centred, Indigenous-led investigations into residential school burial sites and disappeared children, including those located on private lands, to mitigate against further harm in accordance with TRC Call to Action 76, and respect Indigenous Peoples' laws and protocols related to grieving, death and burial practices." Pg, 60***

***Implement the recommendations of the UN Human Rights Committee to prevent the destruction of records of the Independent Assessment Process and the Alternative Dispute Resolution process, scheduled for 2027, by communicating to all Survivors about their rights and exploring avenues to preserve records of national historical significance while safeguarding Survivors' right to confidentiality" Pg, 60-61***

***Implement the recommendations of the ISI and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to counter IRS denialism and misinformation with ongoing public education and awareness-raising campaigns;" Pg, 67***

The Tribunal found that Canada's recognition of Indigenous rights largely as "symbolic, rhetorical." Acknowledgment does not discharge Canada's international legal obligations to end ongoing violations, investigate and punish crimes, provide effective remedies and reparations, and guarantee non- reoccurrence.

***"This is a pattern repeated in many of the government's responses to Indigenous demands and the calls of Commissions and Inquiries. It performs reconciliation and acknowledgement of Indigenous rights but rarely integrates these rights into structures of governance or service delivery, sp they remain symbolic, rhetorical." Pg, 54*** .

We call on the international community to stand with Indian Residential School Survivors in holding Canada accountable by monitoring the implementation of all the Tribunal's recommendations as Canada is in a deliberate state of contempt before the international community.

The Survivor's Secretariat invites Indigenous organizations and people across Canada to read the 57th Tribunal judgment, learn about the evidence presented, and consider why these issues remain unresolved.

We recognize that this is a complex subject and may lead to difficult or uncomfortable conversations. However, these findings extend beyond the work of any one organization, group, or individual.

We are grateful to the Permanent Peoples Tribunal, prosecution team, and the Survivors and witnesses who testified. Nia:wen. Thank You. Miigwech. Merci.

***Read the 57th Tribunal Judgement:*** *https://permanentpeoplestribunal.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/PPT-57_Indigenous-Children_-Judgement_Final_30_9_2026.pdf*

***Learn more about the 57th Tribunal visit:*** *www.our-truths.com*

## About The Survivors' Secretariat

The Survivors' Secretariat is a Survivor-led, community-involved and trauma-informed organization established in 2021 to Uncover, Document, and Share the truth about what happened to the children at Mohawk Institute Indian Residential School located in Brantford, ON. The Secretariat coordinates and supports the investigation into missing children and unmarked burials associated with the institution's 140+ year legacy through the organization's four pillars of Ground Search, Document Collection, Advocacy and Commemoration. The Secretariat is currently investigating the 600+ acres associated with the former institute.
For more information visit: www.survivorssecretariat.ca