

I am honoured to be here to share an Expression of Reconciliation on behalf of the men and women of the BC Coroners Service.

As Coroners, we are responsible for the investigation of all sudden and unexpected deaths in the province. We must determine the identity of the deceased, and the date, location, cause and manner of death. The Province requires us to make these determinations because it recognizes that this knowledge is critically important for the well-being of British Columbia residents.

The unexpected death of an individual is a tremendous loss for their family and their community. The death of a child is particularly heart-breaking.

My agency is committed to doing anything we can to assist the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Missing Children project. We know that determining the circumstances of a death can never bring a child back. We also know however, how critically important it is that no death is concealed, overlooked or ignored.

I hope that we can assist in providing information that assists in determining the truth around some of the deaths of children in the care of Residential Schools, and in that way, honour the memories of those children and support the path of Reconciliation. Thank you for allowing us this privilege.

A. L. B. Sept 19, 2013
Chief Coroner