

# Penelakut Tribe

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July 8, 2021

To our neighboring tribes and organizations,

**Re: Kuper Island Industrial School**

On behalf of the Penelakut Tribe, Chief Joan Brown and Council, and Elders, we are inviting you to join us in our work to raise awareness of the Kuper Island Industrial School, and **Confirmation of the 160+** undocumented and unmarked graves in our grounds and foreshore.

We understand that many of our brothers and sisters from our neighboring communities attended the Kuper Island Industrial School. We also recognize with a tremendous amount of grief and loss, that too many did not return home. It is impossible to get over acts of genocide and human rights violations. Healing is an ongoing process, and sometimes it goes well, and sometimes we lose more people because the burden is too great.

We are at another point in time where we must face the trauma because of these acts of genocide. Each time we do, it is possible to heal a little more. Courage is not the absence of fear, courage is acting in spite of fear.

Join us for our **March for the Children**, happening on **August 2, 2021**. Starting at 9:00am at the Salish Sea Market in Chemainus. We will then march up Oak Street onto to Willow Street to Waterwheel Park. Please sign waiver before the march. Waivers can be signed at 8:00am at the Salish Sea Market.

We will also be hosting healing sessions at the Penelakut School gym. One will be **July 28, 2021** from 10:00am to 2:30pm. Another session will be offered on **August 4, 2021**. Non-Indigenous allies are welcome to attend to witness our truths.

We know healing can't happen in one day. There are many truths to be told and heard.

Sincerely,

Joan Brown, Chief  
Penelakut Tribe

Josh James, Band Manager  
Penelakut Tribe

Robert Sam, Treaty  
Penelakut Tribe

Rocky James, Treaty  
Communications  
Coordinator

Mike Charlie,  
Sulxween/Elders  
Chairman