



SOLIDARITY MESSAGE – FIRST NATIONS & INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES – CANADA

We do not celebrate that Canada has no challenges. We celebrate that Canada has moved from one multicultural reality to another. This is the right moment in time for Canadians to deal with our past as we prepare for the future. It is only when all our weaknesses are being accepted as part of our humanity, can our negative broken self-individualities be transformed.

Canada's Ghanaian Community through Ghana Union Canada stands with the First Nations of Canada, Inuit and Métis Survivors, their families and communities at this difficult time of their history, as we wrestle with the collective atrocities, generational harm and trauma resulting from acts that persisted in the residential school system within the broader Canadian Educational system.

The lyrics of the song "Wake Up Everybody" by Harold Melvin & The Blue Notes in 1975 is so relevant today. ***"The world will not get better if we just let it be, we gotta change it now, just you and me."***

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere, and those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it. President George W. Bush once said, "a great nation does not hide its history, it faces its flaws and corrects them". Having the courage to exhume the atrocities of yesterday, strengthens society's resolve to traverse inhumane lines either past or future and shy away from the old adage of "Not washing once dirty linens in public" to reinforce evil that can masquerade itself as tradition, culture and status quo.

Yes, as a country & society we do have a history stained with injustice & inequalities, hence accepting that is not only responsible but just, honest and truthful. We are not a perfect country; in fact, no country is. There is no place on earth whose history can withstand scrutiny. The difference between Canada & the rest of the world is "we continually acknowledge where we've fallen short, take the time to reconcile; and make bold step to harness our collective strength as a one people with one voice.

Our story as a nation is incomplete until and unless we allow all stories to be told and be heard. *Our beauty and strength is placed on our diversity.* As the days unfold, let us not just take a pause to remember the past, but in our collective sub-consciousness let us make time to reflect on the call-to-action per the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's recommendations that seeks to honour First Nations, Inuit and Métis Survivors

and their families and communities and to ensure that public commemoration of their history and the legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process.

This year, more than ever, Canada Day presents an opportunity to show solidarity, understanding, and resilience. It invites Canadians to come together to reflect on our history and culture. Most importantly, Canada Day gives us space to hold a truthful, reconciling, and inclusive dialogue, strengthen the ties that unite us, and look toward our country's future with optimism while acknowledging the past, careful not to repeat its wrongs.

This is a huge undertaking, for it compels us all – from the Famous to the Faceless, Palace to the Street, Popular to Unknown, Women to Men, Black-to-Brown-to-White, Straight-or-Gay, Affluent or Destitute - to respect and honour the sanctity of life in each of us made whole by the Creator.

The healing process has begun and we “Canadians” have a collective responsibility to keep the momentum. We must strive to be the catalyst of positive change, acceptance, belonging and integration for our present and future generations; the good that dispels evil, truth that makes lost the lies; and honesty that defuses ideology. Together we can say never again and hold the fort firm, ensuring what plagued us in the past does not resurface under a new name.

Our shared history stands straight at the coronation of our newly appointed Canada's 30th Governor General: Mary Simon, an Inuk, an indigenous woman and recipient of Governor General's Northern Award herself.

Today, together, after 154 years, our country takes a historic step towards true reconciliation and, we must all be engaged in its cause.

Signed By:

Ghana Union of Canada, Partner organizations & Member Chapters across Canada
African Canadian Community of Ontario (ACCO)
Council of Caribbean Associations - Canada (CCAC)
Canada-Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
South Asian Women Association of Canada (SAWAC)
African Community of Windsor, Ontario.