

**EXECUTIVE OPERATIONS
STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR
THE TRUTH AND HEALING COMMISSION
ON INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL POLICIES
ACT AND BOLSTERING INITIATIVES**

CDA RESOLUTION 026 (2022)

WHEREAS, the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Council has been empowered to act for and on behalf of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe pursuant to the revised Constitution and Bylaws, adopted by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe by referendum November 10, 1984, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, December 21, 1984; and

WHEREAS, the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Council has a responsibility for the Health, Welfare, and Economic Development of the Tribe and its members; and

WHEREAS, assimilation and "civilization" processes against Native Americans, such as the Indian Boarding School Policies and Practices, were adopted by the United States to strip American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children of their Indigenous identities, beliefs, and languages; to assimilate them into non-Native culture through federally funded and controlled Christian-run schools, which had the intent and, in many cases, the effect, of termination, with dire and intentional consequences on the cultures and languages of Indigenous Peoples; and,

WHEREAS, between 1869 and the 1960s as many as 100,000 American Indian and Alaska Native children were removed from their homes and families, often involuntary, and placed in Indian boarding schools, operated by the federal government and the churches; and,

WHEREAS, the United States Indian Boarding School policy's deliberate intent was to separate Native American children from their families, cultures, communities, and Tribal Nations through removal and reeducation; and,

WHEREAS, a boarding school was located here on the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation and many Coeur d'Alene children were sent here, and this boarding school and others schools were a place to promote the US government ideology of civilization of Indian children; and,

WHEREAS, the 2018 Broken Promises Report published by the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights reported that American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples continue to experience intergenerational trauma resulting from experiences in Indian boarding schools, which divided families, undermined cultural and societal structures, damaged Indigenous identities, and inflicted chronic psychological damage to American Indian and Alaska Native children and families; and,

WHEREAS, Indian Boarding School policies have had lasting negative impacts on the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, and have drastically reduced our community's language fluency, and limited many of our families' social cohesion and advancement; and,

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WHEREAS, Congress introduced legislation to establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policy in the United States on September 30, 2021, the National Day of Remembrance for U.S. Indian Boarding Schools. The Act may be cited as the “Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act”; and

WHEREAS, in order to begin a healing process to address the harms suffered and endured as a result of the boarding school policy; a comprehensive national study is needed of the history of the policy, such study should include complete documentation of every student and the events that took place at each of schools; gathering of testimony from those that suffered abuse, neglect or other trauma, and recommendations to Congress based on the information gathered from individual victims, communities and experts concerning the nature of the harms and potential paradigms of healing and reconciliation; and,

WHEREAS, the Commission’s main role is to develop recommendations on actions the federal government can take to adequately hold itself accountable for, and redress and heal, the historical and intergenerational trauma inflicted by the Indian Boarding School Policies and Practices.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Coeur d’Alene Tribal Council, on behalf of the Coeur d’Alene Tribe, hereby supports congressional efforts to pass legislation approving the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies and Practices Act and bolstering initiatives, and subsequent recommendations, to hold the federal government accountable for, and redress and heal, the historical and intergenerational trauma inflicted by the Indian Boarding School Policies and Practices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coeur d’Alene Tribal Chairman or his designee is authorized to sign all necessary documents related to this request on behalf of the Coeur d’Alene Tribe.

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

The forgoing resolution was adopted at a meeting of the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Council held at the Tribal Administrative Building, 850 A. Street, Plummer, Idaho, on December 16, 2021, with the required quorum present by a vote of 5 FOR 0 AGAINST 0 ABSTAIN 1 OUT



**CHIEF J. ALLAN, CHAIRMAN
COEUR D' ALENE TRIBAL COUNCIL**



**GENE H. JAMES, SEC/TREASURER
COEUR D' ALENE TRIBAL COUNCIL**