



NEWS RELEASE

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## ***PRINCE GEORGE COUGARS VISIT SITE OF LEJAC RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL***

The Prince George Cougars Hockey Club today visited the site of the former Lejac Residential School. Lheidli T'enneh First Nation Elder and Lejac Residential School Survivor, Elder Clifford Quaw provided a presentation to players, coaches, and staff about what life for Indigenous students was like at the residential school which operated from 1922 to 1976 by the Catholic Church under contract with the Government of Canada. The visit to Lejac by the Cougars is part of a partnership which developed last year with the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation.

LTFN Chief Dolleen Logan states "After the discovery last May of the 215 unmarked graves at the former Kamloops Residential School the Cougars contacted us to ask how they should acknowledge the discovery and honour kids who didn't make it home from residential schools. We suggested they could start by informing the players, coaches, and staff about this dark chapter in Canadian history and then help us never forget the lost children, Survivors, their families, and communities. Covid restrictions last year prevented a visit to the Lejac Residential School site where most Lheidli and other Indigenous kids from Central BC attended so Elder Quaw gave a presentation in Prince George about his Life at Lejac. We are pleased this year that this annual educational event between our nation and the Cougars hockey club is able to take place onsite at Lejac."

Prince George Cougars Director of Business Operations Taylor Dakers added "Our players, coaches and staff were honoured last year to have Elder Quaw provide us with an insight into what life was like for Indigenous students at the Lejac Residential School. Most of us did not learn much about residential schools in Canada during our school years so it was very helpful to have a residential school Survivor help us better understand what life was like for most Indigenous students who attended Lejac. We thank the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation for partnering with us and for helping our players, coaches and staff better understand the truth about residential schools so we can walk together on the path towards reconciliation. We will acknowledge our partnership with the LTFN and this dark chapter in Canadian history during our home game on September 30 which is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation."

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