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Town of Gibsons to Install Orange Crosswalks at Gower Point/Winn Road Intersection

August 18, 2021 – The Town of Gibsons (the Town) will be installing orange-striped crosswalks at the Gower Point/Winn Road intersection the week of August 16th.

As with the Town's rainbow crosswalks, which visually represent the community's active support and acceptance of LGBTQ people, the orange crosswalks will be a visible acknowledgement of the Town's ongoing work towards reconciliation. The crosswalks are a way to recognize and honour the Indigenous children who were removed from their families and forced to attend residential school.

"Like many other Canadian communities, the Town of Gibsons flew its flag at half-mast for 215 hours following the horrific discovery of the remains of 215 children at the Kamloops Indian Residential School," said Dave Newman, Director of Infrastructure Services. *"The orange crosswalks are meant to be a more permanent expression of the sorrow we feel and the healing work that still needs to be done."*

Since the launch of Orange Shirt Day on September 30th each year, the colour orange has come to represent the painful legacy of Canada's residential schools, which were established to eradicate their students' Indigenous identity. Signage explaining the meaning of the crosswalks will be developed in collaboration with the Skwxwu7mesh Uxwumixw (Squamish Nation) and placed at the intersection.

This initiative is the latest reconciliation-focused project the Town has undertaken since April 2021, when [Council voted to adopt and implement](#) the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as a framework for Indigenous reconciliation.

Earlier projects include updating the Town's "Naming of Streets, Parks and Public Facilities Policy" to better honour local/Indigenous history and traditions, and advance reconciliation efforts. The Town is also working to establish a [National Healing Forest](#), where Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples can come together in the spirit of reconciliation to heal, reflect, meditate, talk, share and build respect and understanding as a result of the Residential School legacy and the findings of the National Truth and Reconciliation report.

Town staff have consulted with members of the Squamish Nation's Department of Language and Cultural Affairs to ensure they are in support of the crosswalk initiative.

For more information, please contact:
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"Nature is our most valuable asset"