

June 4, 2021

Mohamed Lachemi, President and Vice-Chancellor
Jorgenson Hall #1307
380 Victoria Street
Toronto, ON
M5B 1W7

Dear President Lachemi,

I am writing to you today in support of the calls from Indigenous students, faculty, and community members, including the Yellowhead Institute and X University signatories, to rename the University and remove the statue of Egerton Ryerson from campus.

The Indigenous community members at Ryerson University, in Toronto Centre, and across Canada are grieving the 215 children who never returned home from a residential school in Kamloops. This is a difficult time for the community as they remember what survivors experienced at residential schools and reflect on how this still impacts Indigenous communities today.

Your University's namesake, Egerton Ryerson, was instrumental to the establishment of what became the Residential School System. An act of genocide that has had a devastating impact on First Nations, Métis and Inuit people across Canada.

The forced removal of Indigenous children and abuse endured at these institutions as part of the Indian Residential School policies are a crime against humanity. Indigenous communities continue to experience the intergenerational trauma of residential schools today.

I hope that you will understand that forcing Indigenous students and educators to confront an institution and symbols that celebrate Egerton Ryerson is simply cruel. His memorialization on campus causes

harm to Indigenous people. His legacy should not be honoured as the namesake of the University or with monuments on campus.

[REDACTED], I urge you to listen to the calls from Indigenous students, faculty, and community members, including the Yellowhead Institute and X University signatories, and take swift action to rename the University and remove the statue of Egerton Ryerson from campus.

I hope that your administration will take action to work with the Indigenous community and respond to their concerns.

These actions are crucial first steps in the path towards reconciliation.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]