PIMS Statement on Kamloops and Cowessess

The Pacific Institute for Mathematical Sciences (PIMS) is saddened by the discovery of the unmarked graves of 751 people outside the former Marieval Indian Residential School at Cowessess First Nation on Treaty 4 Territory. This discovery follows the similar discovery of the unmarked graves of 215 people on the site of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School on the territory of the Tk’emlúps te Secwépemc, and many other unmarked graves across Canada that are now being discovered. These discoveries highlight the violence and discrimination propagated through the residential school system.

PIMS is a distributed institute whose member universities sit on Indigenous, First Nations, Inuit and Métis territories across what is now Western Canada and the United States. As leaders of PIMS, we acknowledge our responsibility to work toward truth and reconciliation.

PIMS commits first and foremost to listening to Indigenous voices. We commit to continuing our work as an active partner in working towards transforming the mathematical sciences community into one respectful of and welcoming to Indigenous, First Nations, Inuit and Métis students and researchers.

PIMS commits to work towards ensuring that education and research in the mathematical sciences can be part of the reconciliation and reparation process with the Indigenous, First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada.

PIMS acknowledges the harm caused by colonialist and racist practices in mathematics education and the mathematical sciences community. While mathematical scientists often perceive their work to be neutral, mathematics is practiced as part of a larger societal context, and is often used to justify discriminatory and racist practices.

PIMS commits to developing and releasing a detailed action plan in 2022, which will include plans for ongoing listening to and consultation with Indigenous, First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities.
PIMS joins with Chief Cadmus Delorme of Cowessess First Nation in encouraging everyone to reflect about Canada on July 1st by studying the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Reports as well as the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

PIMS calls on all Canadians and all levels of the government to heed the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s Calls to Action 71-76 regarding missing children and burial information and 62-66 regarding Education and Indigenous Youth in order to put an end to the ongoing injustices against Indigenous youth and children.

Resources:

- National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation: https://nctr.ca/records/reports/
Signatories:*  

- **Jayadev Athreya**, University of Washington, incoming PIMS Interim Director. The University of Washington acknowledges the Coast Salish peoples of this land, the land which touches the shared waters of all tribes and bands within the Suquamish, Tulalip and Muckleshoot nations.

- **Kristine Bauer**, University of Calgary, PIMS Site Director. I would like to acknowledge the traditional territories of Treaty 7 people, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy, comprising the Siksika, Piikani, Kainai First Nations; the Tsuut’ina First Nation; and the Stoney Nakoda, including the Chiniki, Bearspaw and Wesley First Nations. I would also like to acknowledge that the City of Calgary is home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III.

- **James Colliander**, UBC, PIMS Director. The Vancouver Campus of UBC is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) people.

- **Vladimir Chernousov**, University of Alberta, PIMS Board Member, and **Thomas Hillen**, PIMS Site Director, University of Alberta. The University of Alberta respectfully acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples including the Cree, Blackfoot, Métis, Nakota Sioux, Iroquois, Dene, Ojibway/ Saulteaux/ Anishinaabe, Inuit, and many others whose histories, languages, and cultures continue to influence our vibrant community.

- **Hannes Edinger**, PIMS Board Member, Member of the Métis Nation of Alberta, Managing Director of Big River Analytics, currently situated on Haida territory.

- **Douglas Farenick**, University of Regina, PIMS Board Member. The University of Regina’s main campus is situated on Treaty 4 lands, which are traditional territories of the nêhiyawak, Anihšināpēk, Nakoda, Dakota, and Lakota peoples and the homeland of the Métis/Michif Nation.

- **Allen Herman**, University of Regina, PIMS Site Director. The University of Regina is situated in Treaty 4 territory with a presence in Treaty 6 territory. Treaty 4 is the traditional territory of the Cree, Saulteaux, Nakota, Lakota, and Dakota peoples, and it is the homeland of the Métis people. Indigenous Students are welcome and supported at the University of Regina, we are committed to Indigenization and reconciliation.

- **Chris Hoffman**, University of Washington, PIMS Site Director. The University of Washington acknowledges the Coast Salish peoples of this land, the land which touches the shared waters of all tribes and bands within the Suquamish, Tulalip and Muckleshoot nations.

- **Steve Kirkland**, PIMS Board Member, University of Manitoba. The University of Manitoba campuses are located on original lands of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation. We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and
mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

- **Kirill Kopotun**, outgoing PIMS Site Director, University of Manitoba. The University of Manitoba campuses are located on original lands of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation. We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

- **Matthew G. Letts**, University of Lethbridge, PIMS Board Member. Our University’s Blackfoot name is Iniskim, meaning Sacred Buffalo Stone. The University of Lethbridge is located in Blackfoot Confederacy territory. We honour the Blackfoot people and their traditional ways of knowing in caring for this land, as well as all Aboriginal peoples who have helped shape and continue to strengthen our University community.

- **Brian Marcus**, UBC, PIMS Site Director. The Vancouver Campus of UBC is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) people.

- **Marni Mishna**, Simon Fraser University, Outgoing PIMS Deputy Director, Simon Fraser University is located on the unceded traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples, including the səl̓ilwətaɁɬ (Tsleil-Waututh), kʷikʷəƛ̓əm (Kwikwetlem), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish) and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations.

- **Nathan Ng**, University of Lethbridge, PIMS Site Director. Our University’s Blackfoot name is Iniskim, meaning Sacred Buffalo Stone. The University of Lethbridge is located in Blackfoot Confederacy territory. We honour the Blackfoot people and their traditional ways of knowing in caring for this land, as well as all Aboriginal peoples who have helped shape and continue to strengthen our University community.

- **Engin Özberk**, PIMS Board Chair.

- **Stéphanie Portet**, incoming PIMS Site Director, University of Manitoba. The University of Manitoba campuses are located on original lands of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation. We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

- **Anthony Quas**, PIMS Site Director, University of Victoria. The University of Victoria is located on the unceded traditional territories of the WSÁNEĆ (Saanich), lək̓ BXwáŋ (Songhees), Wyomilth (Esquimalt) peoples of the Coast Salish Nation.

- **Chris Soteros**, PIMS Site Director, University of Saskatchewan, I acknowledge that I live and work on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.
• **Weiran Sun**, Simon Fraser University (SFU), PIMS Site Director. SFU is located on unceded Indigenous lands including those of the Tsleil-Waututh (səll̓ilwətaɁ), Kwikwetlem (kʷikʷəƛ̓əm), Squamish (Sḵwx̱wú7mesh Úxwumixw) and Musqueam (xʷməθkʷəy̓əm) nations.

• **Ozgur Yilmaz**, UBC, incoming PIMS Interim Deputy Director. The Vancouver Campus of UBC is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) people.

*The list of signatories will be updated as required.*