



June 24, 2021

## **Black Opportunity Expresses Sympathy for the community of Cowessess First Nation**

It is with heavy hearts that we express our sympathy for our Indigenous brothers and sisters of Cowessess First Nation in Saskatchewan. We stand in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples across Canada.

The recent discovery of more than 600 unmarked graves near the former Marieval Indian Residential School in Saskatchewan is a horrific reminder of the pain and suffering that the Indigenous Peoples have endured and continue to experience today. Action towards truth and reconciliation and steps to recognize and address these terrible acts is a collective responsibility that we must undertake.

“This shocking discovery prompts us to reflect on Canada’s history and to take action to improve the present and future. As we approach Canada Day, we should use this time to learn about the horrors that have been enacted on Indigenous Peoples and to join in the calls for reconciliation,” said Craig Wellington, Executive Director of the Black Opportunity Fund.

We call upon all Canadians, all levels of government, and the Catholic church, to acknowledge the urgent need to right the wrongs that have been done to the original peoples of this land.