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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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M'akola Housing Society

[www.makola.bc.ca](http://www.makola.bc.ca)

### **M'akola hosts Every Child Matters March in partnership to honour National Day of Truth and Reconciliation**

Duncan, BC – What began as an idea to honour the Elders of M'akola's Ts'l'ts' uwatul' Lelum Assisted Living Community, has now grown into a large community event.

"I was hoping to find a way for our Elders to honour this day," said Audrey George, Assisted Living Manager and Member of Cowichan Tribes. "Both of my parents went to residential school and this walk is in honour of my parents, and all of the others who survived residential school, and for the children who never made it home."

On September 30, members of the public, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, are encouraged to join the Every Child Matters walk as a way to observe the inaugural National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.

"At M'akola we know that everything is stronger when we work together, this is true in business and in more important areas of society, such as reconciliation," said Kevin Albers, CEO M'akola Housing Society. "I am proud of Audrey for taking on this challenge and demonstrating her skills of bringing people together for a common goal of healing our communities."

This event is a partnership between Cowichan Tribes, First Nations Health Authority, City of Duncan, Municipality of North Cowichan, CreativeBC, Koksilah Music Festival, Lila Music Centre, SoundOn, BC Arts Council, and M'akola Housing Society,

#### **Quick Facts:**

- Registration (for contact tracing) is from 8:00 – 9:00am at Vancouver Island University.
- Opening Prayer and Walk will begin at 9:15am.
- The walk will be from Vancouver Island University to the Cowichan Tribes, Si'em Lelum Soccer Fields on River Road.
- After the walk, Elders will share their stories following by Traditional drumming, singing, and dancing at the soccer fields.

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