



Tribal Chairman Delores Pigsley (fourth from left) and Vice Chair Bud Lane (third from left) help cut the ribbon at the grand opening of the Mamook Tokatee apartment building in Portland, Ore., on May 5. The 56 units of affordable housing are a collaboration between the Siletz Tribe, the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA) and Community Development Partners. Other participants included (from right) Sami Jo Difuntorum, executive director, Siletz Tribal Housing Department; Portland City Commissioner Dan Ryan; Metro President Lynn Peterson; State Rep. Tawna Sanchez; and Paul Lumley (second from left), CEO, NAYA.



Photos by Diane Rodriguez



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Interior releases investigative report, outlines next steps in Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative

WASHINGTON – Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland and Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Bryan Newland today released Volume 1 of the investigative report called for as part of the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative, a comprehensive effort to address the troubled legacy of federal Indian boarding school policies. This lays the groundwork for the continued work of the Interior Department to address the intergenerational trauma created by historical federal Indian boarding school policies.

This investigative report, released May 11, is a significant step by the federal government to comprehensively address the facts and consequences of its federal Indian boarding school policies – implemented for more than a century and a half – resulting in the twin goals of cultural assimilation and territorial dispossession of Indigenous peoples through the forced removal and relocation of their children. It reflects an extensive and first-ever inventory of federally operated schools, including profiles and maps.

The investigation found that from 1819 to 1969, the federal Indian boarding school system consisted of 408 federal schools across 37 states or then territories, including 21 schools in Alaska and seven schools in Hawaii. The investigation identified marked or unmarked burial sites at approximately 53 different schools across the school system. As the investigation continues, the department expects the number of identified burial sites to increase.

“The consequences of federal Indian boarding school policies – including the intergenerational trauma caused by the family separation and cultural eradication inflicted upon generations of children as young as 4 years old – are heartbreaking and undeniable,” said Haaland. “We continue to see the evidence of this attempt to forcibly assimilate Indigenous people in the disparities that communities face. It is my priority to not only give voice to the survivors and descendants of federal Indian boarding school policies, but also to address the lasting legacies of these policies so Indigenous peoples can continue to grow and heal.”

“This report presents the opportunity for us to reorient federal policies to support the revitalization of Tribal languages and cultural practices to counteract nearly two centuries of federal policies aimed at their destruction,” said Newland. “Together, we can help begin a healing process for Indian Country, the Native Hawaiian community and across the United States, from the Alaskan tundra to the Florida everglades, and everywhere in between.”