

My Walk for Residential School Survivors – APRIL 9/2023 **Charlie William, Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mish**

My name is Charlie Williams. I am from the Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mish First Nation. I am 61 yrs. old. I will be doing a walk from Port McNeill boat ramp to Campbell River on April 9th 2023 at 9 am.

I went too Alert Bay Indian Residential School in 1967. Tender age of 5 yrs old. I have had 11 strokes. The left valve in my heart isn't working. I have 50% muscle mass on my right side. 40% on my left. I have been sobered for over 15 yrs. I am a survivor on a long and winding road on a path of wellness.

The memories I have are heavy and hurtful. In the past was imbedded in my mind. I believed what the staff told me. That I would never amount too anything. I was dirty and don't belong. I was told I wasn't worthy of any good the world had to offer. I will be nothing but a drunk when I grew up, it happened. I made mistakes in my life, and hurt some and I am so sorry. I am not that guy anymore. I am spiritual and loving. I am empowered by you all reading this. Thank you.

My motivation and drive to accomplish my dream is finally here. I left the booze and drugs behind. I am living a life of strength from our ancestors and God. I will always do my best in everything I do. Love and compassion guide me. The choices I made in the past hurt for along time. Now I been sobered for over 15 yrs. And loving it.

Thank you for your time, love an support. The path is beautiful. I will do the walk for all our nations who went too Residential School. Our youth. We went through a lot. Be proud always. Hold your head up. Smile at any negative that comes your way because you are more powerful than you imagine. Shine on never let the darkness win. Lots of loves and God blessing your way. I will say from my heart too yours. From my home too yours. I love and respects you. Yes, you are worthy and do belong. No matter what anyone says. He'em. If there are any Indian Residential School survivors who would like to give me a holler. A thumbs up. A heart.

Please do so. We are in the same canoe. This walk I do is for all us survivor. Our elders and our youth. My love and respects go too you. Give me some love wa'xa. I need all the support I can get. Loves all around. We are survivors. Never forget this. 🙌❤️❤️🙌🙌❤️

