

## **An Apology and Statement of Action.**

Baltimore Yearly Meeting Friends admit and deplore the many harms done to Indigenous Peoples by Friends as well as other European settlers in what is now commonly known as America. We commit to listening carefully to Indigenous voices going forward and following their guidance.

Friends and Meetings without direct involvement share complicity and culpability in the unfair advantage accrued due to failure to counteract social bias, prejudice, acquisition of land through faulty treaties, and broken promises to protect Indigenous Peoples from the onslaught of immigrants invading their territory. Such advantage has accumulated through history resulting in disproportional benefit in present situations of Friends individually and collectively in our Monthly Meetings, and in BYM as a whole.

We express our sorrow as a religious community for our history of participation in cultural erasure, abuse, patronization and subjugation of Indigenous Peoples. We commit to work together with descendants bearing the burden of those harms towards revelation of avenues to atone for past wrongs and achieve right relations going forward. We understand that repair can be achieved only in gracious, respectful community with Indigenous peoples. Our attention must be ongoing, directed toward eliminating social disparity and disproportionate advantage resulting from our historic behavior. We understand that trust must grow slowly, personally, and communally for all parties.

Million Dollar Plus California Property Transferred from Friends to the Nisean People. The Sierra Friends Center property in the northern California mountains (home of the former Woolman School) is being sold to the Nisenan tribe, through their non-profit organization California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project (CHIRP). A national fundraising campaign raised \$1.5 million by the end of April 2024 to complete Phase I of transferring acres to the Nisean peoples. The goal of the fundraising is to pay off the existing mortgage on the property, make some repairs, and create an endowment that facilitates the Nisenan's management of it. The (Friends) Woolman School Board wrote on their website that "passing a small piece [the 230- property] of Nevada County land illegally taken in the past to the descendants of those people." [Click here for more information](#)

Alaska Friends and the Native Village of Kake. Alaska Friends paid \$93,000 in reparations to the Organized Village of Kake, a tribe in Southeast Alaska that was once the site of a Quaker school for Native kids that forced assimilation of on

them. Quakers ran a boarding school for Native children in Douglas, AK from 1887 to 1912 (when the Presbyterian's took over. Friends also ran a mission and day school in Kake, Alaska, from 1891 to 1912. They personally delivered the check on Jan.19, 2024. accompanied by a four-page apology.

**“It was wrong of us to believe that Western European worldviews and practices are superior to ones that you have lived for thousands of years. We apologize for Friends who have not respected your ways of living and for Friends’ participation in forcing a Western way of life upon you.”**

Alaska Friends Conference also supported five young adults to travel to Washington D.C. this Spring to lobby for a [Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding Schools Policy Act](#) . The purpose of the Commission is to recommend Federal actions to adequately have our country account for and redress and heal the historical and intergenerational trauma inflicted by the Indian boarding school policies. [Native News Online](#)