February 29, 2016 Evening

- Burial Ground destroyed by machine operator while reshaping hillside and digging irrigation ditches for property owner
- RCMP is called to scene in the dark. Two partial skulls and several other skeletal elements are collected and transported by the RCMP to Penticton coroner’s office
- RCMP Cpl. Thain stated this was necessary because coyotes could be heard howling nearby and it was feared the exposed remains would be taken by these or other animals

March 1, 2016

- RCMP Cpl. Thain and Constable Harper notify Chief Crow of situation and arrange to meet at property site
- Chief, LSIB Natural Resource Department staff and archaeologist, Meghan Fisher are on site to conduct an emergency archaeological site assessment
- Surface artifacts outside area of disturbance are pointed out to RCMP
- BC Archaeology Branch is contacted.
- 29 pieces of exposed remains were collected by LSIB members
- Emergency site security is provided by LSIB members

March 02, 2016

- Elders meeting is called to provide information about the emergency archaeological site assessment to group and for staff to seek guidance

March 09, 2016

- Proposal for Archaeological Work provided to Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR), BC Archaeology Branch and Celentano family

March 11, 2016

- Celentano family meet with LSIB to discuss potential securing options. But refuse to keep property access gate lock except when allowing LSIB access for daily recovery surveys
- Letter to BC Archaeology Branch issued by LSIB asserting responsibility and obligation accompanied by letters of support from Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) member bands
- LSIB Media release “Unearthed Ancestral Remains”
March 14, 2016

- Elders Meeting held to provide information and update Elders on status of recovery and BC Archaeology Branch progress

March 23, 2016

- Tele conference meeting between LSIB, Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR) and BC Archaeology Branch Director, Justine Batten. BC Archaeology Branch insisting on reducing the scope of work for the sixth time
- Archaeologist states original draft is in keeping with minimum standards required by Arch Branch
- LSIB states entire situation preventable and questions why Arch Branch did not map data on Remote Access to Archaeological Data (RAAD) system since Caldwell recorded the site in 1952

March 31, 2016

- Chief and RCMP are called to site around 10pm. Two people with flashlights are spotted on disturbed site area

April 25, 2016

- LSIB issues letter to Premier Christy Clark regarding government’s failure to protect, mitigate, and conserve known burial ground. Copy of letter is cc’d to Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau and 10 other high ranking government officials.

May 02, 2016

- Chief and Council meeting to arrange site visit with Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR)
May 11, 2016

- Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR) South Regional Director, Shane Berg, BC Archaeology Branch Director, Justine Batten and other BC representatives met with all parties at the LSIB office and visit site with LSIB, Celentano Attorney, Erik Lund and Celentano family to better understand the scope of disturbance.

June 01, 2016

- Teleconference with provincial representatives to hear about agreement to settle matter province is proposing. The agreement is in concept stage only and not on paper yet.

June 07, 2016

- LSIB Media release “Ancestral Remains”

June 09, 2016

- Elders Meeting held to provide information and update Elders on status of recovery and Archaeology Branch progress

June 15, 2016

- Chief and Celentano’s meet on site to discuss archaeology branch report and reburial of remains

June 15, 2016

- BC Archaeology Branch Director, Justine Batten issues letter to Celentano Attorney, Eric Lund, citing breach of BC Heritage Conservation Act, desire to bring about a timely solution and a request for a response within 10 days of the date of the letter. The letter was initially sent to the wrong email address.
June 22, 2016

- Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR) reports to LSIB Chief Crow the province has not received a response from Celentano Attorney, Erik Lund to the BC Archaeology Branch letter.

July 13, 2016

- LSIB is advised by Celentano Attorney, Erik Lund’s office “do not contact our client’s directly.”

July 26, 2016

- A meeting was called for the forensic archaeologist to share information with LSIB elders about the number of ancestral individuals recovered to date.

July 27, 2016

- Okanagan Nation Chiefs meet at LSIB and are provided an update.

July 28, 2016

- ONA Chiefs express full support to LSIB, LSIB media release “ONA Chiefs Support LSIB Regarding Ancestral Remains”.

August 31, 2016

- Tri-party meeting held at LSIB includes, Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR), Celentano family and their attorney to draft a Tri-partite agreement indicating costs will be borne predominately by MARR, if Celentano’s are unwilling to give permission a court order will be issued

September 09, 2016

- Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR) provides draft Tri-partite agreement to all parties for discussion
Timeline of Events

October 04, 2016

- Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR) informs LSIB the Celentano Attorney, Erik Lund is not taking any calls from province.

October 11, 2016


October 18, 2016

- Ministry of Justice sends letter to Celentano Attorney, Erik Lund, indicating the province is offering a contribution for the archaeological work. Therefore, there would be no cost to the clients and requests a response by October 26, 2016.

October 24, 2016

- LSIB Chief and Council updated LSIB staff on status of ancestral burial ground issues. LSIB is waiting on Celentano Attorney, Erik Lund to provide response to province to resolve the matter.

October 28, 2016

- Archaeologist, Meghan Fisher submits Archaeology Impact Assessment (AIA) permit application to BC Archaeology Branch.

November 14, 2016

- Chief Crow sends email to British Columbia’s Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR), John Rustad regarding failure of Crown to issue protection order

November 18, 2016

- Ministry of Forests, Land and Natural Resources Deputy Minister, Tim Sheldan issues Heritage Conservation Act (HCA) Preservation Order. The Order indicates the legal property is protected under s. 13(2) Heritage Conservation Act, is subject to damage and deterioration. The Celentanos are ordered to allow LSIB staff and archaeologist to preserve the ancestral remains located on the Property.
November 21, 2016

- LSIB was informed by BC Archaeology Branch Director, Justine Batten the province served the HCA Preservation Order to the Celentano’s.

November 22, 2016

- Celentano Attorney, Erik Lund’s office notifies LSIB the Celentano’s have agreed to grant LSIB access to the property under the HCA Preservation Order.

November 24-25, 2016

- Archaeologist and LSIB field technicians conduct preservation of ancestral remains under the HCA Preservation Order.

November 30, 2016

- Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR) contacts all parties to set up next meeting to seek resolution. Celentanos agree next meeting date set for January 10, 2017.

January 10, 2017

- Celentano Attorney, Erik Lund, states he is not available. Meeting is canceled

January 24, 2017

- Ministry of Justice replies to December 12, 2016 letter sent by Celentano Attorney, Erik Lund with a proposal for resolution requesting a response by February 20, 2017.

March 23, 2017

- Province of BC through the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR) agrees to provide financial assistance to the Okanagan Nation Alliance for the purposes of the “Cawston Archaeology Project.”
March 31, 2017

- Province of BC sends $70K to Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) specifying eligible costs as, “costs related to the work include but are not limited to: Security, Planning and estimating work, Site preparation, recovery, re-internment and landscaping of the site, Interim storage, study and related off site activities of the remains, Honoraria, ceremony and related costs, Long term security and marking of the site, in a manner agreed to by the property owners.” No archaeological permit has been issued by the BC Archaeology Branch to date.

July 27, 2017

- Meeting between Alexandra Banford, Chief Negotiator, Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR) and LSIB to discuss next steps. Alexandra Banford to meet with Celentano Attorney, Erik Lund and hopes to have a permit issued within a week.

July 31, 2017

- Meeting between Alexandra Banford, Chief Negotiator, Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR) and Celentano Attorney, Erik Lund occurred. Alexandra reports to Chief Crow she made no progress in resolving issues.