



Diocese of Kamloops  
BISHOP'S OFFICE

## INDIGINEOUS RECONCILIATION FUND DIOCESE OF KAMLOOPS COLLECTION

November 4, 2022

Dear Parishioners of Kamloops Diocese,

This year, 2022, we have the 2<sup>nd</sup> Indigenous Reconciliation Fund collection within Canada, and the Diocese of Kamloops is participating in this initiative on Sunday November 13.

A bit of history of the residential schools in British Columbia – there were 18 operating residential schools within British Columbia, and the locations included Kamloops, Lytton, Anahim Lake, and Cariboo (Williams Lake).

There are a number of survivors of the residential schools within our Diocese, and the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund is intended to help provide support for these survivors as they come to terms with their own lived experiences within the residential schools.

As you know, Pope Francis made a heartfelt healing pilgrimage to Canada in July to offer his apology and his desire to promote healing within the Indigenous families and within the Church.

A question that I hear occasionally is – “can we be certain that any donation we make in the Kamloops Diocese will be used for the Indigenous People in our Diocese” and my answer to that question is “yes, and maybe even more”. This fund of \$30 million is coming from all Dioceses across Canada, some which did not have a residential school, and thus our Diocese can share in what other Dioceses are offering. Every bona fide healing proposal that comes to our attention, I, as your Bishop, will forward them on to the national committee making the decisions on the money directions, with my recommendation to approve. The national committee is made up of 4 Indigenous, 3 non-Indigenous, and 2 clergy.

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The Indigenous Reconciliation Fund is \$30 million – it is made up of assessments on a Diocese-by- Diocese basis – the Kamloops Diocese assessment is \$150,000; this amounts to a 5-year collection target of \$30,000 per year. In 2021 the Diocese of Kamloops collected approximately \$24,000 toward our assessment; if possible, we would like to make up the \$6,000 shortfall in our collection amount this year.

Thank you for your generosity in 2021, and I request that you be generous again this year in our collective desire to support this most worthy cause and to assist our Indigenous people in their healing.

Yours sincerely,



✠ Joseph Phuong Nguyen  
Bishop of Kamloops