



Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon **OFFICE OF THE BISHOP**

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February 2, 2022
Presentation of the Lord

Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon TRC Healing Response: Residential School Survivors, Their Families and Communities

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Diocese of Saskatoon;

I am excited to update you regarding the status of our efforts here in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon to raise and assign funds in conjunction with the commitment by dioceses and eparchies throughout Canada to raise \$30 million collectively in support of regionally-based Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Healing Response projects.

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCC) recently released the announcement regarding the structure for collecting funds and discerning projects, and the establishment of a national Indigenous Reconciliation Fund. As previously indicated, projects will be allocated to local and regional initiatives responding to the related Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action, as guided by Indigenous representatives.

In order to allocate these funds, the Diocese of Saskatoon is engaging Indigenous partners in a “Discernment Circle” and will eventually establish a board to discern, allocate, and distribute funds. I am pleased to announce that this consultation is already underway in our diocese.

I affirm our own ongoing efforts here in the Diocese of Saskatoon to fully participate in this collective effort. The Catholic Bishops of Saskatchewan have already launched this appeal online on July 13, 2021, with the support of the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation. ***I am pleased to announce a diocesan goal of \$1.25 million, which would be raised and provided over 5 years.*** This commitment will contribute to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops’ collective pledge to raise \$30 million across the country over the next five years. Funds will be distributed to local programs and initiatives in our province, diocese, and local community.

While funds will be disbursed locally, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops have agreed to establish a new registered charity to manage funds across the country with transparency and good governance, including oversight from an Indigenous Board of Directors. The fund will publish annual reports and will be subject to an audit by an independent accounting firm each year. Further details and information about the Catholic

TRC Healing Response can be found on the Foundation website at: <https://dscf.ca/catholic-trc-healing-response>. You can also find information at our news site at: <https://news.rcdos.ca/2022/01/28/canadian-catholic-bishops-announce-indigenous-reconciliation-fund/>

I am grateful to all those who have already supported this important initiative with donations and prayers. As Catholics – and as brothers and sisters of a much larger human community – we know that we must all take responsibility for amends and healing for past sins. We now enter this new time of opportunity and responsibility.

I am aware that there is much excitement and anticipation about moving forward with this initiative, and I have experienced this excitement already from our Indigenous partners in our early discussions. I am also hearing from many Indigenous and non-Indigenous people a renewed sense of excitement about facilitating healing and relationship-building as a response to the legacy of the residential school history, and to fulfill the vision given to us by God our Creator for “right relationship” with God, other people, and all creation. Finally, there is enthusiasm for discerning good projects that help build relationships. I look forward to how this discernment will unfold.

We are grateful to work with Indigenous partners, as well as all faithful members of our diocesan community to contribute to a more hopeful future based on mutual respect and commitment to moving forward together. Let us continue to journey together on a path of reconciliation and healing, actively building “right relationship” through dialogue, awareness and action.

Yours in our One God and Creator,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ Mark A. Hagemoen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross symbol at the beginning.

✠ Mark A. Hagemoen