



Archdiocese of Vancouver
ARCHBISHOP'S OFFICE

August 31, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

You all deserve my heartfelt gratitude for your generous support of Indigenous Healing and Reconciliation in past years. Your prayers, actions and donations have been instrumental in advancing meaningful relationships with our Indigenous brothers and sisters.

As we enter September, I want to share some updates on the progress we have made. Three years ago, the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund was established to support local initiatives focused on healing, education and cultural revitalization. This fund prioritizes projects determined locally in collaboration with our Indigenous partners.

Your support over the past year has made a significant impact, launching over 20 local and Indigenous-led projects. These include new cultural wellness practices at the Dr. Peter Centre in Vancouver, which provides care that honours Indigenous traditions for those living with HIV and other complex health needs. Additionally, "The Cost of Silence," a film addressing the trauma of sexual abuse, has been shown in 35 communities, empowering survivors to share their stories and seek healing.

One of the most significant milestones this past year has been the signing of a "Sacred Covenant" with the First Nations in Kamloops. This Covenant formalizes our ongoing relationship, ensuring that our journey together is grounded in truth, mutual respect and justice.

As the Apostle Paul reminds us, "All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation." Your participation in the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund embodies this ministry, and I am deeply grateful for your continued support. Together, we are making meaningful strides toward healing and reconciliation.

As we prepare for next weekend's second collection, I ask you to pray, to consider getting involved, and to give generously, knowing that every contribution makes a profound difference.

With my blessing and the assurance of my prayers for you and your families, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ J. Michael Miller CSB

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Archbishop of Vancouver