



January 14, 2025

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The important work of healing and reconciliation continues! The Indigenous Reconciliation Fund was established to accept donations from 73 Catholic Dioceses across the country, and to advance healing and reconciliation initiatives, fulfilling the \$30 million financial commitment made by Canada's Bishops in September 2021. As of January 1, 2025, the Board has approved 216 projects from across Canada, including nine from our diocese. I am very grateful for the work of our dedicated local IRF committee, whose report is included with this letter to provide information about the exciting projects that have been funded in our diocese.

To assist in this important work, the Diocese of Saint John takes up a special collection for the IRF annually at the Lord's Day Masses on the last weekend of January. Your generous financial support of the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund will be part of our action plan moving forward to support various initiatives for healing and reconciliation involving our Indigenous brothers and sisters.

You may contribute to this fundraising appeal using the special collection envelopes in your boxed sets at Masses for the weekend of January 25-26. You may also contribute at anytime on our website via cheque or email money transfer (<https://dioceseofsaintjohn.org/donations>). Additional resources including a link to the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund are available on our diocesan website, <https://dioceseofsaintjohn.org/indigenous-relations>.

I am counting on your continued prayer and collaboration as we advance the cause of healing and reconciliation for our Indigenous sisters and brothers. Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us!

United in prayer and solidarity,

✠ Christian Riesbeck, CC
Bishop of Saint John