

National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples

12 December 2024

To mark the National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples, the Canadian Catholic Indigenous Council (CCIC) recalls the profound sorrow expressed by Pope Francis, during his Penitential Pilgrimage to Canada in July 2022, for the catastrophic effects of the residential school system on Indigenous communities, as well as the journey of reconciliation and healing we have embarked upon together. Two years later, the Pope's words still compel us to recognize this painful legacy and walk alongside the Indigenous Peoples in a spirit of repentance, solidarity, and hope.

We contemplate the Holy Father's words: "The Church is the house where we conciliate anew, where we meet to start over and to grow together". This vision of the Church as a "living body of reconciliation" has guided us in our ongoing commitment to justice and healing. In this spirit, we reaffirm our pledge to work for healing and reconciliation, and to reflect on our efforts since the Holy Father's visit to Canada in 2022.

Together we pray:

*O God, Creator and Father of all,
with humility and hope, we, your children, acknowledge the relationship in You
of all living things.
For this we thank You and praise You.*

*We call on You, Great Mystery, our God who comes to us
in Jesus Christ, Your Son
– our Lord, teacher, prophet and brother –
to open our minds and hearts as we continue to walk the difficult,
yet critical journey of reconciliation and healing.*

*In our world of such blessed diversity,
we see so many struggles and obstacles to oneness and unity.*

*We implore You to heal our brokenness and division. Show us in Jesus the way to
unity among the multiplicity of Your peoples in our world.*

*We also pray that You will guide and lead us in the Truth,
and show us how to be a people who walk with You. May we be a people
of Respect, Humility, Courage, Honesty, and Compassion
- as we find Your Wisdom on the Spirit-led journey that supports deep healing and fosters
renewed relationships.*

Lord, make us channels of Your Peace, Hope, and Love!

+Amen