



## Diocesan Reconciliation Fund Collection

### FAQs

#### **Why are parishioners paying for the wrongs done at the Residential Schools? The Canadian Bishops should be paying for that.**

The Canadian Bishops made a pledge in October of 2021 of \$30 million to provide supports, initiatives, and programs to promote healing and reconciliation with Indigenous communities. Each diocese in Canada, including the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth, have made a financial commitment towards the \$30 million pledge. Our diocese has already committed \$639,000.

The Reconciliation Fund Collection on June 4-5, 2022 is a means for us locally to go beyond that pledge and make efforts within Nova Scotia to take more concrete steps on a path toward healing and reconciliation with Mi'kmaq communities in our diocese.

#### **How will my donation be used?**

Contributions to the Reconciliation Fund will stay in Nova Scotia. Archbishop Dunn, together with Bishop Kirkpatrick of the Diocese of Antigonish, have spoken with the Mi'kmaq chiefs in the province seeking their input and collaboration regarding this collection. To that end, the money collected will go towards local programs and initiatives to support our Mi'kmaq brothers and sisters as per the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #61. Some of the funding may also be used for Indigenous education for clergy and laity as per the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action #59 and #60.

#### **Who will determine how the money is used in the local Mi'kmaq community?**

Archbishop Dunn has repeatedly shared his desire and commitment to walk with the local Mi'kmaq communities. He has continued to create opportunities to listen and learn from them. Recently, Archbishop Dunn and Bishop Kirkpatrick (Diocese of Antigonish) met with all the Mi'kmaq chiefs in Nova Scotia to tell them about the fund. At that time, the bishops asked the chiefs to recommend people from their communities that could come together, along with the diocesan Mi'kmaq Pastoral Council, to determine the best use of the funds.

#### **What is the Mi'kmaq Pastoral Council?**

The Mi'kmaq Pastoral Council is made up of Mi'kmaq leaders and representatives, local clergy, and lay people and is tasked with providing counsel to Archbishop Dunn. The Council have the mandate to discern, discuss, and respond to the pastoral matters important to the Mi'kmaq people of the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth. The Mi'kmaq Pastoral Council is an initiative of Archbishop Dunn.

**Will money from the Reconciliation Fund be used to pay for Pope Francis' visit to Canada in July 2022?**

No. The money collected through the Reconciliation Fund Collection will be used in Nova Scotia for our local efforts to walk together with the Mi'kmaq on a path towards healing and reconciliation.

**How can I make a donation to the Reconciliation Fund Collection?**

Those who make regular donations to their parish and/or the Archdiocese will receive material about the Reconciliation Fund Collection directly in the mail in late May. Donations may also be made by credit card online at [www.halifaxymouth.org](http://www.halifaxymouth.org) Click on Donate. The Reconciliation Fund will take place annually for at least the next five years.

May 26, 2022