



ANNOUNCEMENT – ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PETERBOROUGH

APPROVAL OF 8 INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION FUND APPLICATIONS

DATE: November 16, 2023

The [Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops](#) announced in the Fall of 2021 a nation-wide collective financial commitment in the amount of \$30 million dollars for the [Indigenous Reconciliation Fund](#) (IRF.) The purpose of the IRF is to support healing, community building, and knowledge sharing initiatives for residential school survivors, their families, and their communities. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough pledged the sum of \$400 000 to the IRF.

FNMI residents and organizations within the territory of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough are eligible to apply to the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund which is coordinated by a Local IRF Committee. The first round of applications was received in late September and the committee met in October to review the IRF applications and to make recommendations to the [National Indigenous Reconciliation Fund Board of Directors](#).

Georgie Horton-Baptiste, Chair of the Local IRF Committee is pleased to announce that eight projects were recommended to the National Indigenous Reconciliation Fund Board of Directors and the projects have now been approved.

ENTITY	CONTACT	NAME OF PROJECT	AMOUNT OF IRF FUNDING RECOMMENDED
Curve Lake First Nations	Aricka Fleguel	Honouring Our Children monument	\$100 000
Wausaksking First Nations	Leslie Ramsay	Relationship Building	\$ 20 000
Alderville First Nations	Joanne Smoke	Harvesting for Healing	\$ 25 000
Moon River Métis Council	Shannon Beagan	Pine Needle Baskets	\$ 2 609.93

Moon River Métis Council	Shannon Beagan	Métis Bead Work – Poppy Applique Beading	\$ 1 783.98
Moon River Métis Council	Shannon Beagan	Métis Bead Work – Red Dress Applique Beading	\$ 1 783.98
Moon River Métis Council	Shannon Beagan	Ribbon Skirts for All	\$ 3 748.49
Moon River Métis Council	Shannon Beagan	Métis Rug Hooking	\$ 4 091.14
			\$ 159 017.52

Chairperson, Georgie Horton-Baptiste spoke about the committee’s work saying, *“The paths of truth, reconciliation and healing is two-fold for Indigenous peoples and three-fold for Canadians. While the greater onus for reconciliation is not ours to carry as Indigenous peoples, reparational acts of reconciliation will be fleeting and futile without our participation. The intertwined paths of truth and healing is one we can walk together with our friends. Our local Indigenous Reconciliation Fund Committee invited the Indigenous community to submit project proposals that reflect healing, knowledge sharing, and community building initiatives for residential school survivors, their families and communities. I am filled with joy to see that the Round One project proposals that were recommended to the National IRF committee were approved. I look forward to seeing these projects brought to fruition in their respective communities.”*

Projects funded by the IRF fall into one or more of these four categories:

- Healing for communities and families,
- Culture and language revitalization;
- Knowledge-sharing, heritage & traditions and community building; and/or
- Dialogues for promoting indigenous spirituality and culture.

Approximately \$160 000 worth of projects have been approved in the first round of applications leaving a residual of \$240 000 in the Diocese’s IRF. Round 2 will open in early December. More information can be found on the Diocese’s website through this link: www.peterboroughdiocese.org/IRF

Gayelyn Heffernan, Métis Nation of Ontario - Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Councillor, Vice Chair of the Local IRF Committee, says, *“I am very pleased that the Canadian*

Conference of Catholic Bishops has undertaken a commitment to support healing and cultural revitalization initiatives for residential school survivors, their families, and their communities. The projects forwarded to the National Committee were all very worthy of support and will be of healing benefit to the communities within which they will be undertaken. I am honoured to sit on the IRF Committee as a representative of the Metis Nation of Ontario, and to be part of this good work."

Bishop Miehm expressed his appreciation and hope saying, "I am grateful to the members of our local IRF committee, who thoroughly reviewed these proposals and recommended them to the national committee for approval. Their work has supported these excellent projects which will serve the various First Nations and Metis communities and which will enhance the important and ongoing journey of walking together."

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