



## **MEDIA RELEASE – ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PETERBOROUGH**

**DATE: August 2, 2023**

### **Indigenous Reconciliation Fund Applications are open for the first round of grants!**

At their plenary meeting in the Fall of 2021, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops announced a nation-wide collective financial commitment in the amount of \$30 million dollars to support healing and reconciliation initiatives for residential school survivors, their families, and their communities. Each Diocese across Canada has pledged a sum of money to ensure that the national financial commitment will be met. The funds will be overseen by a local committee comprised of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit (“FNMI”) representation in collaboration with a National IRF Board of Directors.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough pledged the sum of \$400 000. FNMI Residents within the jurisdiction of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough are eligible to apply to the Diocese of Peterborough IRF. The application process opens today and the first round will close at noon on Wednesday, September 27, 2023.

#### **Further information:**

##### **Who is eligible to apply?**

If you are Indigenous (FNMI) and living within the jurisdiction of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough, you are likely eligible to apply. Check for more specific details at [www.peterboroughdiocese.org/IRF](http://www.peterboroughdiocese.org/IRF).

##### **How to apply?**

Check [www.peterboroughdiocese.org/IRF](http://www.peterboroughdiocese.org/IRF) for information about the IRF, the process to apply, and many more details.

##### **When to apply for the first round of grants?**

From today until Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> (2023) at noon

**Where to send the completed application form?**

Complete the Application Form in the format that works for you. Three formats (PDF, Microsoft Word, or print version) of the Application Form are available for your convenience. Send the completed Application Form by email or regular mail for receipt before September 27<sup>th</sup> at noon:

Email: [DeirdreThomas@peterboroughdiocese.org](mailto:DeirdreThomas@peterboroughdiocese.org)

**Mailing Address:**

Office of the Bishop - Indigenous Reconciliation Fund Local Committee  
PO Box 175  
Peterborough, ON, K9J 6Y8

**Will there be more rounds of applications and funding?**

Yes. There are plans to open more rounds in 2023-2024, and if needed, to partner with other Arch/Dioceses as possible.

**How do I contact someone sitting on the Local IRF Committee?**

The list of members and advisory members is found at the end of this Media Release. Please [send an email](#) indicating who you would like to contact and your request will be sent directly to them.

**What if I am not living within the area served by the Diocese of Peterborough?**

Please contact the Arch/Diocese serving your area to find out about the IRF they are offering. If you need help to find out which one it is, send an [email](#).

**IRF Local Committee****Members:**

Chief Laurie Carr, Hiawatha First Nation

Gayelyn Heffernan, Métis Nation of Ontario - Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council - **VICE CHAIR**

Georgie Horton Baptiste, President, Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre - **CHAIR**

Dr. Dawn Lavell-Harvard, Director, First Peoples House of Learning, Trent University

Darlene Lent, Moon River Métis Council

Lisa McDonald, Councillor, Alderville First Nation

Arnold Taylor, Curve Lake First Nation

Clorise Taylor, Manager, Indigenous Student Services, Fleming College

**Advisory Members:**

Most Reverend Bishop Miehm

Rev. Fr. Bill Moloney

Sr. Anne Karges, CSJ

Deb McRae, Director of Finance, Property, and Administration

Deirdre Thomas, Assistant to the Bishop/Communications

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