



MEDIA RELEASE – ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PETERBOROUGH

DATE: February 2, 2024, World Day for Consecrated Life

THE CONGREGATION OF THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH IN CANADA MAKES A GENEROUS \$100,000 DONATION TO THE DIOCESE OF PETERBOROUGH INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION FUND

For Immediate Release

Peterborough, Ontario – The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada has donated \$100 000 to the Diocese of Peterborough Indigenous Reconciliation Fund (IRF). This generous donation will help the fund to support Indigenous initiated and led projects.

Bishop Miehm committed the Diocese, its clergy and lay faithful, to raising \$400 000 for the IRF locally. The fund supports projects in one or more of these four areas:

1. Healing for communities and families,
2. Culture and language revitalization;
3. Knowledge-sharing, heritage & traditions and community building; and
4. Dialogues for promoting Indigenous spirituality and culture.

In the Fall of 2023, eight projects submitted in Round 1 of IRF applications were funded by the local Diocesan Indigenous Reconciliation Fund.

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

Round 2 for the IRF application process opened on February 1st and will close on March 21, 2024. The IRF Local Committee will consider the applications submitted in Round 2 on April 10th at its scheduled meeting and then forward the applications recommended by the Local IRF Committee for funding to the [National Indigenous Reconciliation Fund Board of Directors](#).

The Members and Advisory Members of the Local IRF Committee are as follows noting with gratitude that Sr. Anne Karges from the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada sits on the Local IRF Committee as an Advisory Member.

Members

Chief Laurie Carr, Hiawatha First Nation

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

Georgie Horton-Baptiste, President, Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre

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

Darlene Lent, Moon River Métis Council

Lisa McDonald, 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

More details about the local Indigenous Reconciliation Fund can be found through this link.

www.peterboroughdiocese.org/IRF

Quotes

“With the charism of our congregation being unity and reconciliation, the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada are committed to following the road of reconciling relationships with Indigenous people in Canada. As a sign of support, we are giving \$100,000 for the Diocese of Peterborough's Indigenous Fund, knowing that it will be used well for projects and programs related to the needs of Indigenous peoples. May God bless this ministry of the Diocese of Peterborough.”

- Sister Helen Russell, csj, Congregational Leadership Circle, Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada

"This generous donation from the Sisters of St. Joseph reflects both their long history of service in the Diocese of Peterborough and their ongoing commitment to the work of truth and reconciliation. Much has already been accomplished in the projects financed by our Indigenous Reconciliation Fund and this gift ensures that future projects will also bear good fruit."

- Bishop Daniel Miehm, Bishop of Peterborough

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