

Indigenous Reconciliation Fund

**Guide for Diocesan/Regional
Reconciliation Committees**

April 2022

Table of Contents

Overview of the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund	3
Purpose of this Diocesan/Regional Reconciliation Committee Guide	3
Discerning Local Needs: The Role of Diocesan/Regional Reconciliation Committees	4
General Criteria & Granting Guidelines	4
Grant Application Process	6
Appendix A: Draft Terms of Reference for Diocesan/Regional Reconciliation Committees	7
Appendix B: Diocesan/Regional Application Form for Project Funding	8
Appendix C: Frequently Asked Questions	12
Appendix D: Using the Diocesan Charitable Status to Carry Out a Project	15
Appendix E: Further Information/ Resource Links	16

Overview of the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund:

Dioceses across Canada, in their continuing journey of seeking reconciliation with Canada's Indigenous Peoples, have voluntarily committed to contributing \$30 million over five years in new funding to facilitate further reconciliation efforts. Dioceses have voluntarily committed to contributing these funds annually or in lump sums to the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund (IRF). The Fund is an arms-length, Federally-incorporated not-for-profit registered charity with its own independent initially three-member Board of Directors comprised of Indigenous and non-Indigenous members.

The purpose of the Fund is to:

- Independently approve funding requests from Diocesan/Regional Reconciliation Committees that are consistent with the Fund's granting guidelines;
- Independently manage the receipt of funds and send monies directly to support approved reconciliation projects and initiatives; and
- Independently, annually report to Dioceses and the public on the flow of money into the Fund and out in support of approved projects.

The Fund will have an Accounting Contractor and a cadre of 5 to 10 grant reviewers across the country to assist the Fund's Board in its work.

Purpose of this Diocesan/Regional Reconciliation Committee Guide:

This guide has been prepared by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) to support local Dioceses in the critical work of discerning local Indigenous reconciliation needs and opportunities that Dioceses would, with local Indigenous consultation, like to fund and in applying to the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund for grants to address those local needs.

If you have questions, please direct them to:

- Bishop Mark Hagemoen, Diocese of Saskatoon (mhagemoen@rcdos.ca)
- John Kennedy (jkennedy@halifaxymouth.org)
- Leah MacKenzie (leahm@rcdvictoria.org)
- Fr. Jean Vezina (j.vezina@cccb.ca)
- Jim Milway (milway@archtoronto.org)

Discerning Local Needs: The Role of Diocesan/Regional Reconciliation Committees

The goal of the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund is for local Dioceses to identify the priority, meaningful reconciliation work as determined by local Indigenous groups and organizations which will be funded by the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund. To this end, Dioceses are encouraged to build relationships with local Indigenous groups and leaders and then to form Diocesan Committees comprised of local lay, ecclesial and Indigenous members to discuss and discern reconciliation initiatives that will have a meaningful local impact. Dioceses can recommend funding these local initiatives to the extent of the funds the Diocese has contributed to the Fund.

Dioceses who have already formed working groups or committees to assist in reconciliation work are encouraged to leverage these groups to assist in discerning local needs (rather than forming new committees for this purpose). Dioceses are, however, encouraged to ensure that substantive consultation and discernment is occurring with local Indigenous partners to ensure that projects identified are deemed by the Indigenous community as being significant and meaningful in terms of facilitating reconciliation.

In situations where a single Diocese is too small or does not have the capacity to contribute significantly to the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund, Dioceses may link together to form a Regional Committee to discern regional needs with Indigenous groups and organizations in the region.

Draft Terms of Reference for these Diocesan/Regional Reconciliation Committees may be found in Appendix A.

Indigenous Reconciliation Fund General Criteria & Granting Guidelines:

The Fund has established the following General Criteria and Granting Guidelines to assist Diocesan/Regional Reconciliation Committees (or their equivalent) in their local engagement of and discernment with Indigenous groups. The Indigenous Reconciliation Fund Board of Directors will review all grant applications and disburse funds to projects and initiatives that meet the guidelines and are within the budget of the monies contributed to the Fund by a Diocese or Region.

The General Criteria and Granting Guidelines are:

- All IRF grants are to be made in support of local projects and initiatives of:
 - Healing and reconciliation for communities and families
 - Culture and language revitalization
 - Education and community building

- Dialogues involving Indigenous elders, spiritual leaders and youth with focus on Indigenous spirituality and culture
- Projects receiving grants are also to be in harmony with Catholic teaching
- Capital projects consistent with the General Criteria and Granting Guidelines are eligible for funding
- Sourcing of projects and initiatives to receive grants is the responsibility of the Diocesan/Regional Reconciliation Committees
- Priority should be given to projects which will have or contribute to a lasting impact on reconciliation within communities
- All grant applications are to be made with Indigenous consultation based upon an assessment of their merit and local value and have the support of the local Bishop using the IRF Grant Application Form (please see p. 8)
- Grants requests may be made for funding up to a two-year limit, and grants may be renewed within the lifespan of the Fund
- All Fund grant recipients must be registered charities and funds must be directed towards the agreed upon reconciliation project/initiative outlined in the Grant Application
- IRF grants are to be used to directly support healing and reconciliation initiatives and programs and are not, normally, to be used to cover expenses (i.e. travel, etc.)
- Diocesan/Regional Reconciliation Committees can recommend the funding of local projects and initiatives to the extent of the funds a Diocese/Region has contributed to the Fund
- Diocesan/Regional Reconciliation Committees can seek support from other Dioceses/Regions for projects that have impact beyond their Diocese/Region or are in excess of the local Committee's contribution
- While the \$30M in the Fund will be contributed by Dioceses within five years, projects receiving grants must be completed by December 31, 2029
- The Fund's operational expenses are expected to be approximately 5% (to cover administrative, communication, legal and accounting support) so Dioceses should approve projects up to the amount funded by the Diocese less 5%. Diocesan pledges are adequate to provide \$30 million to reconciliation initiatives as well as these operational expenses.

As a registered charity under the Canada Revenue Agency, the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund must direct all funds to other registered charities. Therefore, money to fund approved grants

will be sent by the Fund directly to the registered charity named in the grant application. In situations in which Diocesan/Regional Reconciliation Committees have identified worthy reconciliation projects or initiatives with groups that are not registered charities, Committees are to search for trusted registered charities who can serve as partners by receiving money from the Fund on behalf of the grant recipient.

Grant recipients will be expected to acknowledge receipt of the funds when granted. Grant recipients are also to provide a written report to the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund, annually or at the conclusion of the project with a copy to the Diocesan/Regional Reconciliation Committee, accounting for how the funds were invested and demonstrating the reconciliation impact of the funds received.

Grant Application Process:

Once a reconciliation project or initiative has been deemed to have local significance by a Diocesan/Regional Reconciliation Committee (or its equivalent), the Committee is to complete the Grant Application using the form found in Appendix B. Grant applications are to be forwarded electronically to:

The Indigenous Reconciliation Fund

administrator@irfund.ca

Upon receipt of a grant application, the Reviewers will examine it and work with the Diocesan/Regional Reconciliation Committee to make any necessary changes to ensure compliance with the General Criteria & Granting Guidelines prior to the application being submitted to the Fund's Board for approval. The Board will provide its approvals at its regularly scheduled quarterly meetings.

Questions about the application process should be directed to the Fund's Administrator:

administrator@irfund.ca

Appendix A: Draft Terms of Reference for Diocesan/Regional Reconciliation Committees

Dioceses can choose to create their own Committee (or leverage their own existing Reconciliation Action Committee, Discernment Circle or working group) or join together with other Dioceses to create a Regional Reconciliation Committee. Committees can make granting recommendations/requests to the Fund for up to the amount that their Diocese has contributed to the Fund. Committees are responsible for consulting with local Indigenous leaders, groups and agencies to source potential grantees. Grant recommendations/requests to the Fund are to be made with Indigenous input based upon an assessment of their merit and local value consistent with the General Criteria/Guidelines for granting and within each Diocese/Region's budget. Diocesan/Regional Reconciliation Committees can seek support from other Committees for grant requests that have impact beyond their Diocese/Region or are in excess of the Committee's budget.

The Committees role is central to the success of the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund by ensuring that grant requests to the Fund are consistent with the Fund's General Criteria/Guidelines for granting and that such grants made by the Fund have the maximum positive impact in their Diocese/region.

Committees are expected to exist for up to 7 years or until all of the monies contributed by the local Diocese/Region have been granted by the Fund.

Appendix B: Indigenous Reconciliation Fund Grant Application Form

Click these link to access a fillable PDF version or Word of the application form. A printed Word version of the form can be found on the following pages.



IR Fund - Application
Form - March 23, 202



IR Fund - Application
Form - March 23.doc

Indigenous Reconciliation Fund Diocesan or Regional Application for Project Funding

Project Summary
Name of proposing entity (Diocese or Region):
Project title:
Brief description of project: (please include start and end dates)
Funds requested (total and by year): (Note: Please attach project budget and list of any other partners/donors separately)
Signatures:
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <hr style="width: 25%; margin: 0 auto;"/> <p>Diocesan Bishop</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <hr style="width: 25%; margin: 0 auto;"/> <p>Chair of Diocesan or Regional Committee</p> </div> </div>
A. Project Detail: PROJECT RATIONALE
1. Describe the 'need' for the project:
2. Describe how the project is consistent with Fund granting criteria and guidelines:

3. Provide evidence of success of similar projects, if any:

B. Project Detail: DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION RECEIVING THE FUNDS

1. Name and brief history of the organization

2. Confirm organization's charitable or qualified donee status (and provide CRA numbers)

3. Provide evidence that the organization can carry out the proposed project (or a description of any other organizations that will assist in the proposed project)

4. Provide any testimonials on the project and the funded organization:

5. Attach recent audited financial statements (If unavailable, please provide the latest financial information provided to the CRA Charities Directorate)

Statements/information are attached (please check the box)

6. Contact information for key individual at the organization receiving the funds:

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Mailing address:

C. Project Detail: DESCRIPTION OF USE OF FUNDS
1. Summarize expenses by category: (i.e. salaries, purchased goods or services, etc.)
2. Summarize program expenses by programme area: (if applicable)
3. Summarized expenses by year: (if applicable)
D. Project Detail: AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER PARTNERS IN THIS PROJECT
If this project is being done in partnership with other entities or NPOs, please attach proposed agreements between the organization to be funded by this grant and the other organization(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft agreements/information are attached (please check the box)

For Office Use Only

Project #: _____

March 23, 2022

Appendix C: Frequently Asked Questions

1. *Are we confident the Bishops will meet their new \$30M target?*

Yes. Canada's Bishops are fully committed to meeting the joint \$30 million voluntary financial commitment over five years. The CCCB has received firm commitments from 73 dioceses who will help reach this target. Under the planned framework, the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund will publish annual reports and be subject to an independent accounting firm each year, to ensure full transparency and accountability.

2. *Who will be managing the fund?*

The Indigenous Reconciliation Fund will be managed with financial measures in place to ensure transparency and good governance. Board directors and members of the corporation will collectively bring a strong financial acumen and deep commitment to the healing and reconciliation journey. The three initial directors of the Board include:

- **Chief Wilton Littlechild, Ph.D**, a Cree chief, residential school survivor, and lawyer who served as a Commissioner for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. Chief Littlechild has been a Member of Parliament, Vice-President of the Indigenous Parliament of the Americas, North American Representative to the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and a Chairperson for the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Commission on First Nations and Métis Peoples and Justice Reform.
- **Giselle Marion**, who holds a law degree from the University of British Columbia and was called to the Bar in the Northwest Territories in 2008. During her articles Ms. Marion worked for the Department of Justice. She is a Tłıchq Citizen and was born and raised in Behchokò, NT. She is the Director of Client Services with the Tłıchq Government out of the Behchokò office.
- **Rosella Kinoshameg**, an Odawa/Ojibway woman from the Wikwemikong Unceded First Nation Territory. She is a Registered Nurse with over 50 years of nursing experience, mostly working with First Nations communities doing community health, maternal child health, immunizations, home and community Care. She was one of the original members of the CCCB's Indigenous Council and continues to serve as a member of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle.

The members of the corporation include:

- **Natale Gallo**, a former Supreme Director of the Knights of Columbus, where he represented Canada on the International Board of Directors.
- **Claude Bédard**, National President of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in Canada.
- **Barbara Dowding**, former National President of the Catholic Women's League of Canada.

3. *Why should Indigenous peoples believe that we will follow through on this commitment?*

Canada's Catholic Bishops recognize and share the immense disappointment that past fundraising efforts did not live up to the responsibility to meaningfully address the Catholic Church's role in Canada's Indian Residential School System. We recognize that there is no single step that can eliminate the pain and suffering felt by residential school survivors, but by listening, seeking relationships, and working collaboratively, we hope to learn how to walk together on the long journey to healing and reconciliation.

The new Indigenous Reconciliation Fund will be transparent and accountable in supporting the healing and reconciliation initiatives that our Indigenous partners value.

4. *Why are we only promising \$30 million over five years?*

We recognize that there is no single step that can eliminate the pain and suffering felt by residential school survivors. The Indigenous Reconciliation Fund is a tangible expression of the Bishops' commitment to walk with Indigenous peoples along the long journey towards healing and reconciliation. By creating a time-limited fund, we hope to achieve a sense of urgency from Catholic entities and their faithful communities, as well as accountability to Indigenous partners and the general public.

5. *Can we confirm what date the \$30 million will be delivered by?*

\$30 million will be delivered over the next five years, through contributions made by 73 dioceses across Canada.

6. *How much has each diocese committed to fundraise?*

Seventy-three dioceses across Canada have made concrete, voluntary commitments to help fulfill the \$30 million financial commitment over five years. We recognize that exact amount fundraised by each diocese may vary from these initial commitments. With that in mind, under our proposed framework, the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund will transparently report on the fund's finances on an annual basis, and be subject to an audit by an independent accounting firm each year.

7. *Doesn't the Church have enough money to fulfill this commitment? Why are you asking Catholics to donate?*

The Catholic Church in Canada consists of thousands of independent entities, each with their own financial circumstances. It is up to individual dioceses to determine how best to meet their financial commitments. Having said that, we have heard loudly from Catholics across Canada who wish to participate in the healing and reconciliation journey.

By launching a grassroots-led campaign where local dioceses and their faithful can raise funds and provide meaningful input on disbursement plans, we believe that we can engage Catholics in a new way around this critically important priority.

8. *Who actually determines / authorizes the projects by diocesan or regional reconciliation committees?*

Both the local Reconciliation Committees AND the Fund Directors play a role in determining and authorizing projects. It is up to the diocesan/ regional reconciliation committees to discern and recommend projects that fulfill the requirements as set out by the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund Grant Application criteria. It is the Fund Directors who confirm and decide that recommended projects fulfill the requirements and can be approved.

9. *What is the better process to pursue: a Regional Committee or a Diocesan Committee?*

This ultimately depends on your local and diocesan circumstance. Dioceses with very specific local circumstances and other indigenous features may determine that it is better to discern needs on a diocesan level. However, dioceses in regions with more common circumstances may find it advantageous to discern needs and opportunities on a broader, regional level. The important deciding factor is what best contributes to local relationship-building and discerning and proposing excellent projects that fulfill the general criteria as set out in the “General Criteria and Granting Guidelines.”

10. *What happens if a proposed project is rejected by the Fund Directors?*

It is anticipated that this would be a rare situation. If a diocesan or regional reconciliation committee project proposal is fulfilling the criteria as set out in the Fund Grant Application Process, then rejection of a submitted project should not occur. However, if it does, then a dialogue should occur between the Fund Directors and the local Diocesan/Regional Committee as to how to adjust/ amend the project so that it may fulfill all criteria and achieve approval.

Appendix D: Using the Diocesan Charitable Status to Carry Out a Project

As Submitted by the Diocesan/ Regional Project Committee & Approved by the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund

On an exceptional basis, a local committee may not be able to identify an independent organization with charitable status to receive funding and carry out a worthwhile project. It then may conclude that the local diocese will be the charity to carry out the project. An “oversight sub-committee” of the Diocesan/ Regional Reconciliation Committee would be established to oversee the distribution of funds assigned to the specific project, and to monitor and assure that the project is properly and fully carried out.

The approval by the Fund would be on the following basis:

- Determining that there is clearly no other suitable charity to receive the project funds and oversee the project
- The Diocesan / Regional Reconciliation Committee establishes an “Oversight Sub-Committee” to direct the funds received by the Arch/ Diocese and to monitor and assure that the project is implemented and fully carried out
- The Diocesan / Regional Reconciliation Committee carries out the evaluation function, as required by the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund
- The Arch / Diocese carries out – as the entity with charitable status – all other administrative requirements of the Canadian Revenue Agency, and those of the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund.

Appendix E: Further Information/ Resource Links

1. “Indian Residential Schools and **TRC Settlement**:

<https://www.cccb.ca/indigenous-peoples/indian-residential-schools-and-trc/>

2. Overview of **\$30 million Indigenous Reconciliation FUND**

<https://www.cccb.ca/media-release/canadian-bishops-announce-30m-national-financial-pledge-to-support-healing-and-reconciliation-initiatives/>

3. **Regarding the performance and fulfillment by CCEPIRSS** (Corporation of Catholic Entities Party to the Indian Residential School Settlement) of obligations re: IRSSA (Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement)

<https://www.cccb.ca/indigenous-peoples/indian-residential-schools-and-trc/canadas-bishops-provide-update-on-indian-residential-school-settlement-agreement/> (summary)

<https://www.cccb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Summary-Memorandum-dated-January-28-2022.pdf> (independent legal review, release in Jan. 2022)

4. Regarding the **Delegation to Meet Pope Francis** in late March 2022

<https://www.cccb.ca/indigenous-peoples/indigenous-delegation-march-28-to-april-1-2022-vatican-city/>

<https://www.cccb.ca/announcement/canadian-bishops-assembly-of-first-nations-metis-national-council-and-inuit-tapiriit-kanatami-announce-rescheduled-dates-for-rome-delegation/>

5. Regarding the “**Doctrine of Discovery**” and ***Terra Nullius*** – a Response

https://www.cccb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/15.-29-Mar-2016_Catholic-response-to-doctrine-of-discovery-and-tn.pdf

6. **Chronology of CCCB** (Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops) **engagement**

<https://www.cccb.ca/indigenous-peoples/chronology-of-ccb-engagement/>