

INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION FUND

QUESTION & ANSWER

How much money is the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough going to contribute to the IRF?

\$400 000

Does the Diocese expect the pew collections to make up this amount?

The people of the Diocese are very generous and they have a deep concern for matters related to reconciliation with the Indigenous Peoples and the Catholic Church's role in the harm caused by the Residential Schools Policy. However, the offertory from the faithful will also be accompanied by clergy and Diocesan financial contributions to total \$400 000 or more.

Does the levy or "cathedraticum" apply to the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund donations?

The answer is no. The levy or cathedraticum does NOT apply to the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund donations.

Will donations for the IRF be used to offset the Papal Visit costs?

No. The financial funds committed on behalf of the diocese to the IRF will not be used to finance activities or initiatives related to the Papal Visit.

What types of projects will be funded?

The IRF will be used for these four purposes:

- Healing and reconciliation for communities and families;
- Culture and language revitalization;
- Education and community building; and
- Dialogues for promoting indigenous spirituality and culture.

How will administrative and legal costs be covered?

The Fund's operational expenses are expected to be approximately 5% (to cover administrative, communication, legal and accounting support) so Dioceses will approve projects up to the amount funded by the Diocese less 5%. Diocesan pledges will likely provide both the \$30 million to reconciliation initiatives as well as these operational expenses.

How is the local committee overseeing the IRF comprised?

Here is a quote from the Guideline:

“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 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.”

Who is on the local committee overseeing the IRF comprised?

The Committee has yet to be formed locally. We are consulting with several Indigenous Peoples residing here to understand how best to form this committee so that it will achieve the aims set out for it. We will let you know who is on the committee once it has been formed.

What happened in the past with restitution and fund-raising efforts?

The Catholic entities that operated residential schools were part of the 2006 Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement (IRSSA).

As part of the work toward reconciliation, the parties to the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement (IRSSA) committed to financing and services as follows:

- Cash payments of 29 million dollars by the fifty-one Catholic entities (dioceses and religious orders) who were party to the agreement. This obligation was met, with the government authorized deduction of \$399,999.00 for administrative costs.
- 25 million dollars in “in kind” services offered by the Catholic entities over ten years. This obligation was met by September of 2011, and many of these services continue today. These services were overseen and authorized by a multi-party group consisting of members of the AFN, Catholic entities and the federal government.
- A 25-million dollar “best efforts” campaign reaching out to individuals and groups beyond the Catholic entities. It was this campaign that failed to come anywhere near its goal. This national campaign raised approximately 3.7 million dollars which was certainly a poor and embarrassing result, even given the “best efforts” nature of the project. The “Moving Forward Together” fundraising campaign was identified as a best efforts campaign aimed at supporting the process of healing and reconciliation with survivors, their families, and their communities. A Board of Directors provided leadership with the oversight of members including the Assembly of First Nations National Chief Phil Fontaine, chair; and Mary Simon, a prominent Inuit leader, now the Governor-General designate.
- The Government of Canada confirmed the agreement that the three areas of the financial commitment described above had been fulfilled, even though the “Moving Forward Together” fundraising best efforts campaign fell far short of the goal. This was a disappointment at the time and continues to be a disappointment to this day.
- The current campaign led by the CCCB – the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund - is meant to redress this drastic shortfall and support projects that will enhance the work of reconciliation.

Do you have information on the Diocesan website about Residential Schools?

Yes. Check the link below for “Background Information about Residential Schools for Catholics.”

<https://www.peterboroughdiocese.org/en/about-us/residential-schools.aspx>

Do you have a question we did not answer yet? Please email the question to info@peterboroughdiocese.org Thank you!