

September 2022

Dear Friends,

The Indigenous Reconciliation Fund Committee of the Diocese of Victoria is pleased to announce they are now accepting applications for the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishop's Indigenous Reconciliation Fund.

The Committee includes: Bertha Landrie, a Métis woman living in Victoria; Briana Bear, of Songhees and Kwakwaka'wakw family; James Swan, hereditary Chief of Manhousaht; Carmen George, from Penelakut; and Fr. Dean Henderson, Pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary in Langford. We are eager to encourage projects from groups anywhere on Vancouver Island and the surrounding Islands that foster good medicine for people harmed by the legacy of residential schools.

The attached document, also available at www.rcdvictoria.org/irf, gives information about the Fund and how to apply. After review by our Committee, selected applications will be forwarded to the national Fund for payment. We have elected to offer up to \$30,000 per project, until the full \$1.25 million of the local fund has been dispersed.

To submit an application or if you have any questions, please email irf@rcdvictoria.org. A voicemail can also be left at 250-800-3167 and a Committee member will return your call. The deadlines for applications are:

- October 31st 2022
- January 31st 2023
- March 31st 2023

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask. We look forward to hearing about initiatives that will help our people in the journey of healing and strengthening.

Sincerely,

The Indigenous Reconciliation Fund Committee
Diocese of Victoria

Indigenous Reconciliation Fund Application Guide

- Diocese of Victoria -

September 2022

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria acknowledges with gratitude that we work, play, and pray on the territories and traditional lands of the Coast Salish, Nuu-chah-nulth, and Kwakwaka'wakw Peoples. In the light of this truth, and in humility, we commit ourselves to continue to work for reconciliation, and for respectful relationships with the Creator and all creation.

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Overview of the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund:

Roman Catholic 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 to the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund (IRF). The Fund is an arms-length, federally-incorporated not-for-profit registered charity with its own independent Board of Directors, whose initial members include Rosella Kinoshameg, Chief Wilton Littlechild, Ph.D, Giselle Marion, and the Honourable Graydon Nicholas, CM, ONB, LL.D.

The purpose of the Fund is to:

- Independently approve funding requests from Diocesan 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 of Directors in its work.

Discerning Local Needs: The Role of the Diocese of Victoria IRF Committee

The goal of the Diocese of Victoria IRF Committee is to identify the priority, meaningful reconciliation work in our Diocese to be funded by the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund. To this end, the IRF Committee is comprised of local lay, ecclesial and Indigenous members who will discuss and discern reconciliation initiatives that will have a meaningful local impact. The current members of the committee are Bertha Landrie, Briana Bear, James Swan, Carmen George, and Fr. Dean Henderson.

We are eager to encourage projects from groups anywhere on Vancouver Island and the surrounding Islands that foster good medicine for people harmed by the legacy of residential schools. The IRF Committee can recommend funding local initiatives up to the extent of the funds the Diocese of Victoria has contributed to the Fund, which totals \$1.25 million.

Purpose of this IRF Application Guide:

This guide has been prepared to support groups and individuals in the Diocese of Victoria who would like to apply to the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund for grants to address local needs.

If you have questions, please direct them to the Diocese of Victoria IRF Committee at irf@rcdvictoria.org or 250-800-3167.

Grant Application Process:

To submit an application, please complete the “*Indigenous Reconciliation Fund Application for Project Funding*” form found in Appendix A and forward to the Diocese of Victoria IRF Committee at irf@rcdvictoria.org.

Indigenous communities and individuals in the Diocese of Victoria may apply for a one-time time grant of up to \$30,000. Deadlines for applications are:

- October 31, 2023
- January 31, 2023
- March 31, 2023

After the final grant application deadline in March 2023, if funds allow, a second round of funding may be offered.

Indigenous Reconciliation Fund General Criteria & Granting Guidelines:

The Fund has established the following General Criteria and Granting Guidelines.

- 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 to be in harmony with the teachings to love the Creator, neighbor and oneself.
- Capital projects consistent with the General Criteria and Granting Guidelines are eligible for funding
- 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
- 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

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 the Diocese of Victoria IRF Committee has identified worthy reconciliation projects or initiatives with groups that are not registered charities, the Committee will assist in a 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 Diocese of Victoria IRF Committee, accounting for how the funds were invested and demonstrating the reconciliation impact of the funds received.

Grant Approval Process:

Once a reconciliation project or initiative has been deemed to have local significance by the Diocese of Victoria IRF Committee, the Committee will forward the grant application to the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund.

Upon receipt of a grant application, the Reviewers will examine it and work with the Diocese of Victoria IRF 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 of Directors for approval. The Board of Directors will provide its approvals at its regularly scheduled quarterly meetings.

Indigenous Reconciliation Fund

Application for Project Funding

Project Summary
Name of proposing entity (Diocese or Region): Diocese of Victoria
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:
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)

☐ **Draft agreements/information are attached** (please check the box)

For Office Use Only

Project #: _____

Appendix B: Frequently Asked Questions

- ***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.

- ***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 initial directors of the Board include:

- **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.
- **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.
- **The Honourable Graydon Nicholas, CM, ONB, LL.D.**, the first Indigenous person in Atlantic Canada to earn a law degree and who has served as counsel on many important cases involving the rights of Indigenous people. He was the first Indigenous judge in New Brunswick, where he served on the provincial Court from 1991-2009. He served as Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick from 2009 to 2014, also a first for an Indigenous person. Presently, he is the Chancellor of St. Thomas University, where he is also the Endowed Chair of Native Studies.

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.

- ***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.

- ***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.

- ***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.

- ***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.

- ***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.

- ***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.

- ***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 C: Further Information/ Resource Links

- Indian Residential Schools and **TRC Settlement**:

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

- Overview of **\$30 million Indigenous Reconciliation FUND**

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

- **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/canadasbishops-provide-update-on-indian-residential-school-settlement-agreement/> (summary)

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

- 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

- **Chronology of CCCB** (Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops) **engagement**

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