

Indigenous Reconciliation Fund: frequently asked questions

What is the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund?

The Indigenous Reconciliation Fund has been established by the dioceses of Canada to provide funds for Indigenous healing and reconciliation initiatives. Each Diocese in Canada will commit funds to the IRF, who will in turn fund local projects as identified by Diocesan or regional committees comprised of Indigenous and Catholic representatives. The total commitment across Canada will be at least \$30 million.

What is the Diocese of Hamilton's share of this commitment?

The Diocese of Hamilton is committing \$4 million to the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund. All funds raised from parishioners will be over and above this \$4 million, making this a minimum commitment. Of these funds, \$2.1 million will be allocated locally through partnerships within the Diocese of Hamilton, while \$1.9 million will support initiatives in other dioceses or communities in need across the country.

What projects will be funded through the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund?

The specific projects, programs, and initiatives supported by the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund will be determined based on the recommendations and deliberations of the Indigenous members of our local fund committee. However, we do know the funds will be allocated broadly to programs that work toward accomplishing Call to Action #61 of Canada's *Truth and Reconciliation Commission*: healing and reconciliation projects; culture and language revitalization projects; education and relationship-building projects; and dialogues for Indigenous spiritual leaders and youth.

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 collectively bring a strong financial acumen and deep commitment to the healing and reconciliation journey. The 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.

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.

Rosella Kinoshameg, an Odawa/Ojibway woman from the Wikwemikong Unceded First Nation Territory.

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. Nat is also a parishioner in the Diocese of Hamilton.

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.

Who will sit on the local Indigenous Reconciliation Fund committee?

While the local membership of the committee is not yet finalized, at least half of the committee's members will be from local Indigenous communities.

Are donations tax-deductible?

All donations are eligible for charitable receipts which will be given through your parish. Accordingly, cheques can be made out to your parish, listing *Indigenous Reconciliation Fund* in the memo field.

For more information, please contact the Stewardship and Development Office at 905.528.7988 or give@hamiltondiocese.com