



## **DIOCESE OF HAMILTON**

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### ***Diocese of Hamilton Commits \$4 Million to Support Reconciliation Initiatives with Indigenous Communities***

**For Immediate Release:** February 14, 2022, Hamilton, Ontario

Today, the Diocese of Hamilton announced a financial commitment of \$4 million to support healing and reconciliation projects. This commitment will contribute to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops' collective pledge to raise \$30 million across the country over the next five years.

“While the Diocese of Hamilton ran no residential schools, we take seriously our part in supporting the CCCB effort to promote healing and reconciliation with our Indigenous sisters and brothers,” said Bishop Douglas Crosby, OMI, Bishop of Hamilton “With Jesus Christ as our model, the Church stands with those who suffer, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. May God, the Creator of all, bless this initiative and the journey toward healing and reconciliation.”

\$2.1 million of these funds will support Indigenous-led healing and reconciliation efforts within the Diocese of Hamilton and \$1.9 million will support initiatives in other dioceses/communities in need across the country. Parishioners across the Diocese will be invited to support this initiative through various means.

In partnership with Indigenous communities, the funds will be allocated 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.

Management and distribution of these funds across the country will be performed by a new charity to be established by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. The Charity will operate with transparency and good governance, including oversight from a board of directors which includes several respected Indigenous leaders. The fund will publish annual reports and will be subject to an audit by an independent accounting firm each year.

The Diocese of Hamilton will continue to provide updates as important initiatives develop.

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