



Greetings,

I would like to begin by recognizing that the Archdiocese of St. Boniface is located on the territories of Treaties 1, 3, and 5, which are the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene People, and the homeland of the Métis Nation.

As September 30 is now recognized as National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Canada, I would like to share with you the efforts the Archdiocese plans to undertake in its reconciliation journey. The following are a few of the proposed initiatives:

- The formation of an advisory committee composed of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to guide the continued efforts of truth and reconciliation in our diocese.
- The various pastoral services are asked to include efforts to promote truth and reconciliation. This could be done through workshops, for example a blanket exercise for families, or through the sharing of resources with the parish coordinators of different ministries.
- The use of the *4 Seasons of Reconciliation* educational resource as a professional development tool to nurture the minds of our priests and diocesan employees so as to promote a renewal of relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. (<https://www.reconciliationeducation.ca/education>)
- The Committee for the Renewal and Growth of Parish Pastoral Councils is still working toward its mission of developing and implementing PPCs in our parishes, but with a new priority of providing PPCs with resources to facilitate conversations around reconciliation.
- The organization of diocesan discussion groups using the *Listening to Indigenous Voices* resource from the Jesuit Forum for Social Faith and Justice.
- Following a year of listening, dialogue, and conversion of hearts within our diocesan Church, we are committed to collecting funds at the local level in support of initiatives that will be discerned locally with Indigenous partners.

These efforts are only the beginning. As it is written in the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: “Together, Canadians must do more than just talk about reconciliation; we must learn how to practice reconciliation in our everyday lives—within ourselves and our families, and in our communities, governments, places of worship, schools, and workplaces. To do so constructively, Canadians must remain committed to the ongoing work of establishing and maintaining respectful relationships.”

Let us not be afraid to have these deep, and sometimes difficult, conversations with those around us. Let us walk humbly together in practicing just and equitable relationships in our daily lives. Finally, let us ask the Lord to continue guiding us on this journey.

Looking forward to walking with you,

Mireille Grenier

Director of Pastoral Services