



## National Catholic Health Care Week

**Sunday, October 3 to Saturday, October 9, 2021.**

**This year, National Health Care Week seeks to build understanding, connection and trust about our mission and contribution as a Catholic health community in Canada's pandemic response.**

**Through stories, reflection and prayer, the Week also seeks to foster healing and to advance Catholic health care's commitment to social justice and the values of inclusiveness and compassion, in the spirit of reconciliation.**

### **The Courageous Gift of Catholic Health Care**

During National Catholic Health Care Week, we invite our Catholic community to reflect on and share the story of the courageous gift of Catholic health care. As Catholic health organizations across Canada, we are united in a 400-year healing mission and are inspired by a calling to care for all with compassion and humanity—body, mind and spirit. We are driven to improve health care for all Canadians, especially those at greatest risk, as innovators, advocates and strong partners across our health care system. This week is an invitation to learn more about the role, value and impact of Catholic health care in Canada and to be vocal, informed supporters of Catholic health care and the healing ministry of Jesus in Canada. [The Courageous Gift](#) expresses the heart of our work, rooted in the Gospel and the legacy of our founding congregations.

### **Together in Care**

At the heart of Catholic health care is a deep respect for the intrinsic value and dignity of every human being. Our mission relies on healing relationships of openness and trust with those we serve. In all we do, we work to provide a safe place where partners in the healing journey can connect as people and learn from each other in humility and respect.

Across Canada, we serve and walk with many survivors who continue to demonstrate strength and resilience while also grappling with wounds and scars of Residential School trauma, loss and suffering carried down through generations. As Catholic health care providers, we are committed to the long journey with First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples towards the shared and long-lasting reconciliation we all long for—anchored in authentic healing and restoration, mutual understanding, trust and community.

As health care organizations, we also continue the long path to recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic—addressing the ongoing burden of uncertainty, separation, fatigue, and anxiety for our care teams, the seniors living in over 80 Catholic homes across the country, and the millions of Canadians we serve through our hospitals, health centres, clinics, and other services.

This is what we are called to do. Throughout this challenging time, we have witnessed the tremendous depth and strength of our people and stories of courage, hope, and resilience. We follow the example of our Founding Sisters who worked through insurmountable challenges and complex issues, grounded in the core belief that it is a privilege to attend to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those we serve, offering comfort, healing, and love.