



# National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

## September 30

On this day, in communities across the nation, Catholic health care providers participate in the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, acknowledging the suffering experienced in Canada's Indian Residential Schools. We commit to creating safe and healing space for all we serve and pray for healing and wisdom as we continue our journey of reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

### Prayers for Justice and Healing

Vibrant God

Your creation explodes with the colours of the rainbow. Your peoples reveal the beauty of diversity. We remember today when the joy and dignity of a precious child was destroyed. We lament today for the childhoods lost through the residential school system. We mourn for the spirits crushed and the futures compromised.

Celebrate the hope and joy of every child. Tell the stories of resistance that make us stronger. Build the bonds of solidarity to ensure "never again" In the name of the one who was child among us, Amen

~Kairos Canada

O God, we praise and thank You for the blessings of life in Canada, from your natural bounty and from the work of human hands. We ask you to open our ears to the truths about our collective history shared with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission by survivors of residential schools. We ask you to open our minds to the complex and subtle ways that past mistakes, arrogance, misuse of authority, and sinfulness have damaged our social fabric in ways we have barely begun to redress. We ask you to open our hearts that we may continue to listen even when the truth challenges us; that we may understand that we are heirs to a system that has shown itself capable of domination and cruelty, whether or not we personally contributed; that we may commit ourselves in all humility to do what we can and support the efforts of others to restore our ruptured social fabric. Amen.

~Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon

Today we wear orange to remember and honour all the Indigenous children who went to residential schools. Today we wear orange and we pray for the residential school and intergenerational survivors who are still struggling.

Today we wear orange and we are thankful for those who speak the truth, and who work to shine a light on injustice.

Today we wear orange in the name of compassion and the spirit of truth and reconciliation. Help us, God, to remember and act on this this every day. Amen.

~United Church of Canada

Our Father and Creator, we acknowledge all the gifts we have received from you. We especially acknowledge the gift of children which points towards a future of hope. We express our sorrow for all those Indigenous children and young people who have suffered during their time at Residential Schools over these past many decades. A suffering that continues for many. We also remember with grieving hearts the children who have died during these years. We remember the pain experienced by their families relatives and friends and the helplessness that many have felt when they heard of these deaths.

We know that you are a God of mercy and compassion as we see in the love your Son Jesus has for us. We ask for comfort, healing and consolation for all Indigenous peoples who are experiencing pain and sorrow over the Residential School legacy. Send your Holy Spirit into all hearts giving courage, humility and wisdom so that all the inhabitants of this land can walk the path of truth and reconciliation in justice, peace and love. We acknowledge your gifts Father, and we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

~Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlottetown



Creator we come and give thanks for the unconditional love you have shown us your people, helping us to always love ourselves and be thankful for the gifts you have blessed each one of us with.

Help us to have courage that allows us to have the mental and moral strength to listen to our hearts and to do what is morally right.

Send us your Wisdom so we can use the gifts of the Great Spirit to build peaceful and healthy families and community. Instruct us Creator on how to use our gifts so we can become strong people who help bring peace to the world.

Help us Creator to always let our first response to any situation be prayer. As we rise up to meet the day let us give thanks for the day and your light that brings truth and guidance to our journeys. Keep us praying so we can begin to see and hear your truth spoken to us by the grand-fathers and grand-mothers who sit in the four directions and our elders who walk among us today.

Create in us hearts that respect all life on mother earth, so that we might give of ourselves for the greater good of all life, Reminding us to respect all the elders from different races who uphold the sacred teachings of you Creator.

Creator, we humans struggle with honesty in all of our relationships, so remind us to never gossip or lie about one another. But give us the strength to grow in our honesty towards all.

We pray for all these things in a spirit of humility so that we can consider our family our friends, neighbors, and our communities before we think of ourselves. Help us to remain humble surrendering to you Creator, the maker and director of all life.  
Hiy, Hiy

*~Edmonton Native Healing Centre*

God our Creator,  
You heal broken hearts with Your love, and call us to share this love with one another. Open our hearts, that we might learn to walk with one another — as Indigenous peoples, peoples of settler origin and newcomers — along Your healing path. Give us the courage to see You...in every human face, in every language and culture, in every gift of creation. Make us stewards...of one another's dignity, of one another's safety, of one another's lands, of one another's rights to a cultural identity, as unique peoples...as gifts to the human family...as Your beloved children. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

*~York Catholic School District Board*

O God, Creator and Father of all, with humility we your children acknowledge the relationship of all living things. For this we thank you, we praise you and we worship you.

We call on you, Great Mystery, the Word made Flesh – our teacher, prophet and brother – to open our hearts to all our brothers and sisters, and with them to grow in the wisdom, honesty, courage and respectfulness shown in The Sacred Teachings.

Give us the vision and honesty to recognize that the we are all brothers and sisters of one human family, created and sustained by the One Creator.

As we deal with many challenges, may we never give way to fear and anger, which can be the source of division and threat amongst peoples. We look to how God always gives to us, as a remedy for sins of prejudice and intolerance.

We see in God the Creator of all things, One who always provides and is generous –even given the abuses we have heaped on one another and on the earth.

We see in the Son, Jesus Christ - the innocent Victim who pours His life blood out from the Cross for all peoples.

We see how the Holy Spirit is God's gift, alive in our world today – inspiring vision and hope that we can have the same mind and heart of God!

May Your Spirit bless the souls who died at the Kamloops residential school and all souls who died at residential schools. May this same Spirit also bring blessing and healing to all families and communities affected in any way by the schools.

O Creator, show us the way to healing, forgiveness and reconciliation and a renewed fellowship.  
Amen.

*~Canadian Catholic Indigenous Council*

