

The Bishop of Qu'Appelle
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THE DIOCESE OF QU'APPELLE *Anglican Church of Canada*

June 5, 2021

A diocesan call to prayer, repentance and reconciliation.

As your bishop, I grieve the awful legacy of the Residential Schools and the ongoing hurt the experiences continue to inflict upon, all the Creator's precious children. Though we grieve and offer tear drenched prayers for the 215 children who died and were interred in unmarked graves in the Residential School in Kamloops, we have to look painfully at our own diocesan involvement and own our historic complicity as a diocese in the Residential Schools system in Saskatchewan.

This week I have been in communication with Bishop Adam Halkett, Bishop Michael Hawkins, Bishop Chris Harper, Vice Chief David Pratt (Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations), Archbishop Mark Macdonald and others. I have expressed my hope that, together with First Nations and Metis peoples, we will do all we can to aid the full telling of the stories; assist with any physical searches of land; and offer our prayers in the memorializing of any victims, at present unknown. I also assured Vice Chief David of my, and the diocese of Qu'Appelle's, full cooperation and support in ways that continue to live into the apology given by former bishop of Qu'Appelle and Primate, Michael Peers, to the National Native Convocation in Minaki, Ontario on August 6th, 1993 (see attached file), and in ways that together aid our journey to greater healing, respect and reconciliation.

I cannot begin to comprehend the depth of the hurt, the grief, or the anger the church and government have caused. Together with former Primate, Michael, I am deeply and profoundly sorry and stand behind his words of apology made on behalf of the Anglican Church of Canada.

I call the diocese of Qu'Appelle to join me in a time of intentional daily focussed prayer, repentance and reconciliation.

1. Tomorrow, June 6, I hope the prayer written below by Bishop Chris Harper (Diocese of Saskatoon) will be prayed in all our churches. I ask this prayer continue to be said in our churches and in our homes until June 21.
2. On Monday June 7 the bell at St Paul's Cathedral will be tolled prayerfully 215 times in memory of the victims and their families in Kamloops.
3. On Sunday June 20th I call all churches in the diocese of Qu'Appelle to use the prayers selected for National Indigenous Day, on the Anglican Church of Canada web site, in their liturgies for the day.
4. I call all of us, each day, to pray for all our Indigenous leadership across Canada. Archbishop Mark Macdonald has shared the grief over the recent deaths of 11 indigenous priests and of Dr. Ginny Doctor, friend and matriarch, at the National Office. It has certainly been a time of great loss for them, and for all, at a time when so many grieve, about the discovery in Kamloops and grieve loved ones who have recently died.
5. I also ask your prayers that we be faithful in our shared apology as a Church in this diocese and in living further into the healing and reconciliation with all peoples.

Yours in the Name of Him who died and rose again for us all, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ R. Hardwick". The signature is written in a cursive style.

The Right Reverend Robert Hardwick.
Bishop of Qu'Appelle

A Prayer For The Children Who Did Not Return Home

Almighty God our Creator,
we remember before you all of the children –
our dear relatives –
who did not return home from the Residential Schools,
and those who suffered.
We in this moment acknowledge their suffering and pain.
May you O Creator grant their souls rest,
and for the broken; healing and peace.

May your love and tenderness surround them as you hold them in you.
We pray to you also for ourselves and our children,
help and strengthen us all to be better than yesterday,
that we may walk respectfully in apology, in forgiveness and in peace
with all our relations in humanity.
At a time like this, in our pain and frustration,
we remember and acknowledge that we need your guiding and healing Spirit.

We lift up to you, our prayers and need, in the Name of Jesus,
who suffered and died for us,
and through His suffering and death raised us to new life,
and who will raise us with our departed loved ones.

Amen.

*Bishop Chris Harper
Diocese of Saskatoon*