



**Archbishop Murray Chatlain**  
**Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas**  
**P. O. Box 270, The Pas, MB R9A 1K4**  
[chancery@keepas.ca](mailto:chancery@keepas.ca)

September 28, 2021

My brothers and sisters of the Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas,

Ever since the news of the unmarked graves at the site of the previous Kamloops Residential School was announced, people across Canada have become much more aware of the harmful parts of our Residential School legacy. We have especially been praying for the children that died in Residential Schools, for those who did not make it home and for all survivors and their families.

Once a year approximately seventy Bishops of Canada gather and discuss the important questions affecting our people and country. This past week that yearly meeting was held on Zoom and much of it was about Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. It is not easy to get seventy people to agree on much. I think it significant that all the Canadian Catholic Bishops agreed on several things.

Firstly, you will find an apology supported and signed by all the Bishops of Canada. While I and many Bishops and Religious Leaders have made apologies, this is from all the Dioceses of Canada.

Secondly, people often point out that apologies with no action do not mean much. All the dioceses of Canada together have now committed to a \$30 million five-year campaign to support Indigenous healing and Reconciliation programs. The announcement of this very practical effort follows.

Thirdly, we are working to make our own records as available as possible. In the history of our Archdiocese we had six Residential Schools. We are doing what we can to provide what information we have on our gravesites. During the TRC our records were turned over to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We continue to commit to helping identify the children that passed away at our own Residential Schools.

Fourthly, a delegation to Rome of Survivors, Elders and Indigenous youth this December 17-20 will continue to engage Pope Francis in this hurtful part of our Canadian and Church history. One of these representatives is from Beauval and one from Thompson. This will be another significant step in this important journey of Reconciliation.

This September 30 we especially join our prayers with all our Indigenous families. May we find the way to heal and walk forward together in this land that God, our Creator, has given us.

With faith, hope and love I remain,

Archbishop Murray Chatlain  
Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas