#### Highlights of Archbishop Fred Hiltz’s Address to the 117th Synod of the Diocese of New Westminster, May 27, 2017

**Reconciliation**

In his sermon to the delegates, Fred Hiltz, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, spoke about reconciliation with First Nations peoples.

We have so much to learn from the First Nations about the environment and their respect for all creatures. More than ever, we are aware of climate change and environmental displacement. We confess our pollution of the earth and pray for wisdom and resolve against exploitation and greed.

There is a great blot on this country that needs to be healed—cultural and spiritual genocide. First Nations children were robbed of their language, songs, spirituality and identify. Their people were great engineers who built great longhouses. They were doctors with a vast knowledge of medicines and their art is among the greatest in world history.

**A Framework for Healing**

The First People’s Principles of Learning (below) invite us to a deeper theology. They provide a framework for improving our understanding and guiding our actions. Principles 1, 3 and 9 apply to all creation, while Principles 4, 6 and 8 apply to relationships across generations.

**Actions We Have Taken**

Our church apologized in 1993. We have appointed Melanie Delva to a full-time position in our ministry of reconciliation. We have set up an Anglican Healing Fund to focus on projects to recover languages and spirituality. We have a Coming Home Society.

**Moving Forward**

As we move forward, we need to ask: What is reconciliation? How can we judge? What is appropriate? How well have we changed?

The First People’s Principles of Learning have much to teach us. We need to align our liturgies with the integrity of creation and call on politicians to heal the earth for the sake of those who come after us. We need to help youth recover their past so they can reclaim their future. “We will recount to the Lord the deeds we have done so future generations will inherit our faith.”

**FIRST PEOPLE’S PRINCIPLES OF LEARNING**

1. Learning ultimately supports the well-being of the self, the family, the community, the land, the spirits, and the ancestors.
2. Learning is holistic, reflexive, reflective, experiential, and relational (focused on connectedness, on reciprocal relationships, and a sense of place).
3. Learning involves recognizing the consequences of one’s actions.
4. Learning involves generational roles and responsibilities.
5. Learning recognizes the role of indigenous knowledge.
6. Learning is embedded in memory, history, and story.
7. Learning involves patience and time.
8. Learning requires exploration of one’s identity.
9. Learning involves recognizing that some knowledge is sacred and only shared with permission and/or in certain situations.

Note: These principles were written by the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC), founded in 1992 by participants at a provincial First Nations education conference at the Vancouver Friendship Centre. Their primary goal is to promote and support the provision of quality education to First Nations learners in BC. Their legal authority as decision-makers is protected in both federal (2006) and provincial legislation (2007).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

The First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC). First People’s Principles of Learning. [Online] <http://www.fnesc.ca/wp/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/PUB-LFP-POSTER-Principles-of-Learning-First-Peoples-poster-11x17.pdf>

The First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC). The First Nations Education Steering Committee: About FNESC. [Online] <http://www.fnesc.ca/about-fnesc/>

# Diocese of New Westminster, Anglican Church of Canada. Primate's Address to the 117th Synod of the Diocese of New Westminster, May 27, 2017 [Online] <http://vancouver.anglican.ca/media/2017-05-27-primate-s-address-to-the-117th-synod-of-the-diocese-of-new-westminster> (Video of this address to the 117th synod)

# Tasker, John Paul. Mar 20, 2017 'Nothing good' about residential school system, Anglican Church tells Senator Beyak, [CBC News](http://www.cbc.ca/news/cbc-news-online-news-staff-list-1.1294364) [Online] http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/anglican-church-beyak-residential-schools-1.4033335