



January 26, 2022

Dear People of the Territory,

It is with deep sadness we hear that ground penetrating radar has again confirmed what we already knew, that there are bodies of children in unmarked graves at the site of the former St. Joseph's residential school. We know that this announcement brings further trauma to Indigenous communities, especially survivors and intergenerational survivors of residential schools. We lament with them, and we pray for strength and courage for them, as they receive and process this.

I also pray that we in the non-Indigenous community continue to feel outrage at the atrocities that were done against Indigenous peoples in Canadian church-run government institutions, and that our outrage fuels action. We renew our commitment to the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, to address not just the wrongs of the past, but racism in our own hearts and in our social systems today. I urge each parish to look through the 94 Calls to Action, especially those directed to the Church parties (59-61), and to discuss in your parish how you might take action.

I invite you to post the prayer for Remembering the Children (see attached) outside your church and to pray it in your Sunday prayers. The apologies of 1993 and 2019 are available on the national website (<https://www.anglican.ca/tr/apology/>). You may want to listen again to the Apology for Spiritual Harm from Primate Fred Hiltz, given at General Synod 2019 (<https://www.anglican.ca/news/an-apology-for-spiritual-harm/30024511/>) to post it on your church bulletin board, and to study it in your parish.

Please pray for the Pastoral Elders of the Territory; for all Indigenous leaders; for the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples (ACIP) and our Territory ACIP representative John Haugen; for Archbishop Mark MacDonald, National Indigenous Archbishop; for the Rev. JoAnn Hinter and the parish of St. Peter's Williams Lake; for the whole community of Williams Lake; for the community of Lytton and the Rev. Angus Muir; for the survivors and intergenerational survivors of St. George's residential school in Lytton; and for community workers and suicide prevention workers.

As Primate Linda Nicholls said regarding the childrens' graves at the Kamloops residential school found in the Spring of 2021: "These are days to listen to the stories of Indigenous people – to acknowledge that our Church shared in the perpetrating of this pain – to recommit to the hard work of truth-telling and reconciliation."



The Office of the Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical
Province of British Columbia and Yukon
Anglican Church of Canada

I pray that we have the courage to be present to this work that is ours, to follow our Lord, the suffering servant who was "a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief" (Isaiah 53), who bears our burdens and invites us to bear each other's. May God deepen our compassion, kindness, and our outrage, turning our outrage to action.

Yours in Christ,

+ Lynne McNaughton

The Most Rev. Lynne McNaughton
Metropolitan



Remembering the Children

A time for

truth-telling

listening

learning

healing

Supporting the work of Canada's
Truth and Reconciliation Commission

www.rememberingthechildren.ca

Remembering the Children Prayer

God of our Ancestors,
 who holds the spirits of our grandmothers and grandfathers
 and the spirits of our grandchildren,
 Remembering the Children,
 we now pledge ourselves to speak the Truth,
 and with our hearts and our souls
 to act upon the Truth we have heard
 of the injustices lived,
 of the sufferings inflicted,
 of the tears cried,
 of the misguided intentions imposed,
 and of the power of prejudice and racism
 which were allowed to smother the sounds and laughter of
 the forgotten children.
 Hear our cries of lament
 for what was allowed to happen, and for what will never
 be.
 In speaking and hearing and acting upon the Truth
 may we as individuals and as a nation
 meet the hope of a new beginning.
 Great Creator God
 who desires that all creation live in harmony and peace,
 Remembering the Children
 we dare to dream of a Path of Reconciliation
 where apology from the heart leads to healing of the heart
 and the chance of restoring the circle,
 where justice walks with all,
 where respect leads to true partnership,
 where the power to change comes from each heart.
 Hear our prayer of hope,
 and guide this country of Canada
 on a new and different path. Amen

Prière en souvenir des enfants

Dieu de nos ancêtres,
 toi qui veilles sur les esprits de nos grand'mères et de nos
 grands-pères, et sur les esprits de nos petits-enfants,
 En souvenir des enfants,
 nous nous engageons à parler en toute Vérité,
 à poser des gestes, de cœur et d'âme, en accord avec la
 Vérité que nous avons reconnue à propos des injustices
 subies,
 des souffrances infligées,
 des directives maladroitement imposées,
 de la puissance des préjugés et du racisme assez
 prédominants pour étouffer les sons et le rire des
 enfants oubliés.
 Écoute les cris de notre repentance
 à propos de ce qu'on a laissé se produire
 et à propos de ce qui ne pourra plus prendre place.
 A l'heure où nous voulons parler,
 écouter et agir en accord avec la Vérité,
 puissions-nous, en tant qu'individus et en tant que nation,
 relever le défi d'un nouveau commencement.
 Grand Dieu Créateur,
 toi qui veux que toute la création vive dans l'harmonie et la
 paix,
 En souvenir des enfants
 nous osons rêver à un chemin de réconciliation
 où les regrets venant du cœur mûrissent en guérison du cœur
 et en une occasion de rétablir le cercle,
 où la justice guide les pas de chacun,
 où le respect conduit à un véritable partenariat,
 où la puissance du changement prend son
 inspiration dans chaque cœur.
 Entends notre prière d'espérance,
 et guide notre pays, le Canada,
 sur un sentier neuf et différent. Amen.