



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

Archbishop recommits to First Nations reconciliation *Archbishop Miller repeats apology for Church's role in Residential Schools*

VANCOUVER (May 29, 2015) – Vancouver Archbishop J. Michael Miller recommitted the Archdiocese of Vancouver to reconciliation, justice and dialogue with First Nations as the national Truth and Reconciliation Commission's work draws to a close.

Over a four-day period in Ottawa, May 31 to June 3, natives and non-natives will congregate for the closing ceremonies of the seven-year process of collecting stories and recollections of former residential school students. The TRC's final report will be presented June 2.

In a statement, Archbishop Miller offered the Archdiocese's "sincere and heartfelt apology for the role that the Church played in the federal government's policy which involved forcibly separating children from their families and placing them in residential schools." He said the policy "contributed to the pain and suffering experienced by generations of First Nations children and adults." The full letter can be read at rcav.org/statements-letters.

The Archdiocese of Vancouver will also be participating in a number of events marking the end of the Truth and Reconciliation process:

- Rennie Nahanee, the Archdiocese of Vancouver's coordinator of First Nations ministry, will take part in the official closing ceremonies in Ottawa.
- Catholic schools in the Archdiocese created "[Heart Garden](#)" remembrance projects for residential school children who died, with pupils writing messages on paper hearts to plant in school gardens.
- The Archdiocese will take part in an ecumenical service at 10:30am, Sunday, June 2, at St. Andrews-Wesley United Church.

For more details of Vancouver events, please visit <http://reconciliationcanada.ca/reconciliation-initiatives-vancouver-2015>.

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