



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

Catholics Called to Support TRC Event

B.C., Yukon bishops issue letter expressing regret and hope for healing

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VANCOUVER – Catholic Bishops in B.C. and Yukon are inviting Catholics to support next month’s Truth and Reconciliation B.C. National Event aimed at healing the painful legacy of Residential Schools in Canada.

In a letter written to the Catholic faithful, the seven bishops said the TRC process is “shedding the light of truth” on the history of Residential Schools and “guiding a process of reconciliation between and among First Nation families, communities, churches and governments.”

The [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada \(TRC\)](#) is holding its [B.C. National Event in Vancouver](#) from Sept. 18 to 21, 2013.

The letter says the Catholic Church ran a significant number of the schools where emotional, physical and sexual abuse took place. “Because of these failures, we have a moral obligation to be fully involved in the healing and reconciliation initiatives proposed by the TRC,” say the bishops, who urge Catholics to support the event through prayer, volunteering, and attendance.

“As Bishops of British Columbia and Yukon, we once again express our deepest regret and we apologize for any abuse which took place in the Residential Schools under our care.”

The letter and additional resources have been posted on the Archdiocese of Vancouver website at www.rcav.org/trc. It is signed by Vancouver Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB; Victoria Bishop Richard Gagnon; Kamloops Bishop David Monroe; Nelson Bishop John Corriveau, OFM Cap; Prince George Bishop Stephen Jensen; Whitehorse Bishop Gary Gordon; and Bishop Ken Nowakowski, of the New Westminster Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy.

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