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November 18, 2021

Most Rev. Raymond Poisson, President
Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops
2500 Don Reid Drive
Ottawa, ON K1H 2J2

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the almost 70,000 members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, who serve in every province and the military, I wish to express our appreciation for the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) on committing to a nationwide collective financial effort to support the healing and reconciliation initiatives for residential school survivors, their families and communities.

The CCCB's profound statement of apology, acknowledging the suffering and participation of many Catholic religious communities and dioceses in the Indian residential school system that led to the suppression of the Indigenous people's language, culture and spirituality has started the road to healing and reconciliation.

As Catholic women, we will encourage members to journey with Indigenous people into a new era of reconciliation. Members will be encouraged to participate in their diocesan efforts to support fundraising initiatives for meaningful projects to address the historical and ongoing trauma and the legacy of suffering and challenges that Indigenous people continue to suffer from their experience at residential schools.

The Day for National Truth and Reconciliation will be promoted, encouraging members to pray, recognize and participate in activities to foster a healing path to reconciliation.

"If one member suffers, all suffer together with it" (1 Cor 12:26). Through the CCCB's national apology and financial commitment, the Catholic church in Canada can move forward to a more just society, and a more fraternal and unified church. Together we can have a church that is united in the truth that God's love is for all people.

Yours in Christ,

Fran Lucas
National President and Chairperson of International Relations