



OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

May 30, 2022

Ms. Fran Lucas
National President
Catholic Women's League of Canada

Re: Walking Together: Papal visit to Canada July 24-29

Dear Fran,

We are delighted to share the joy of the upcoming pastoral visit by Pope Francis to Canada on July 24-29, 2022. During this visit, the Holy Father will speak directly to survivors of Canada's residential schools, and deliver once again a heartfelt apology for the Church's role in those institutions, as he did when the Indigenous delegations visited him in Rome in April.

This visit will be one of healing, hope and reconciliation that we hope will be a watershed moment for the Indigenous peoples of this land and the Church's relationship with them. As you know, the Vatican has confirmed that the Holy Father will utilize three hubs for the visit to Canada: Edmonton, Quebec City and Iqaluit. It will be a much more modest visit than a usual papal pilgrimage, because we want to keep the focus on Indigenous people.

Still, there are costs associated with the visit. These include lodging and event security for participants; event production costs such as staging, lighting and sound system; site logistics such as toilets, power, internet and communications equipment for volunteers; and mobility for short transport for Elders or Survivors. National organizers estimate the total cost of the visit at \$15 million, and they are working to secure support from all levels of government as well as the private sector.

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I write to ask that you invite and encourage the Catholic Women's League councils and their 75,000+ individual members across Canada to make donations to help with these costs.

Please note that the \$30 million commitment recently announced by the CCCB (Indigenous Reconciliation Fund) will support Indigenous healing and reconciliation initiatives. None of those funds will be used to cover the expenses of this visit.

I trust that the faithful members of the League will show that they support Pope Francis' journey and that they value and appreciate its importance to our Indigenous sisters and brothers. We are grateful for all gifts, regardless of amount.

Donations by councils and individual CWL members may be made:

- Online through Canada Helps at <https://bit.ly/2022PapalVisit>
- By cheque to their respective Diocese or Archdiocese, duly marked "Papal Visit."

For more information, please visit papalvisit.ca. The site will soon include an online tool for your members to register as volunteers.

I know that members of the CWL are always ready to serve in times of need, and the Bishops of Canada are ever thankful. May God bless you and all your sisters for their support and prayers.

Sincerely in Christ,



✠Richard W. Smith
Archbishop of Edmonton
General Coordinator of the Papal Visit to Canada