

## The Indigenous Reconciliation Fund (IRF) Information & Progress Update – March 2023

### **\$30M commitment over 5 years in process**

Dioceses across Canada, in their continuing journey of seeking reconciliation with Canada's Indigenous Peoples and have committed to contributing \$30 million over 5 years in new funding to facilitate further reconciliation efforts. Five year pledge commitments have been received, and the **Year One Target \$9.5M** has been met.

The IRF is an arms-length, federally-incorporated not-for-profit registered charity with its own independent Board of Directors comprised of Indigenous and non-Indigenous members. The charity was registered in March 2022 and its first Board meeting was held in June 2022. In the IRF's first year of operation, the Board approved 18 projects across Canada.

The IRF Board meetings are held monthly and scheduled on the second Thursday of each month. Proposal applications, for consideration, should be submitted at the beginning of each month. Today, across Canada, Dioceses and their Indigenous partners are discerning local Indigenous reconciliation needs and opportunities that Dioceses would, with local Indigenous participation and consultation, would like to fund and apply to the IRF for funding to address local needs.

### **The Indigenous Board of Directors and Members**

The IRF Board is comprised of the following Directors and Members.

***Rosella Kinoshameg (IRF Board Chair)*** Rosella is an Odawa/Ojibway woman and residential school survivor from the Wikwemikong Unceded First Nation Territory, with over 50 years of nursing experience, mostly working with First Nations communities on community health care. She has an honorary doctorate in Sacred Letters from Regis College at the University of Toronto. In April, she is being honoured with the Magis Award.

***Giselle Marion*** - Giselle is a Tłı̨cẖo Citizen, born and raised in Behchokò, North West Territories. She is the Director of Client Services with the Tłı̨cẖo Government, which represents the Dene people of NT. She holds a law degree from the University of British Columbia.

***The Honourable Graydon Nicholas*** - Graydon has a lengthy history of working for justice for First Nations and other people. He was the first Indigenous person in Atlantic Canada to earn a law degree, the first Indigenous judge in New Brunswick, and was Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick from 2009 to 2014, also a first for an Indigenous person. Presently, he is the Chancellor of St. Thomas University, where he is the Endowed Chair of Native Studies.

***Nat Gallo*** - Former Supreme Director of the Knights of Columbus, who has represented Canada on the foundation's International Board of Directors.

***Barbara Dowding*** - Former National President of the Catholic Women's League of Canada.

***Recruitment in process*** - National President of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in Canada. Recruitment for the new National President is in process.

**The Indigenous Reconciliation Web-Site** <https://www.irfund.ca>

## The Dioceses/Regional Reconciliation Committee Formation

Dioceses can choose to create their own Committee (or leverage their own existing Reconciliation Action Committee, Discernment Circle or working group) or join together with other Dioceses to create a Regional Reconciliation Committee.

Committees can make granting recommendations/requests to the IRF for up to the amount that their Diocese has contributed to the Fund. Committees are responsible for consulting with local Indigenous leaders, groups and agencies to source potential grantees.

Grant recommendations/requests to the Fund are to be made with Indigenous input based upon an assessment of their merit and local value consistent with the General Criteria/Guidelines for granting and within each Diocese/Region's budget.

Diocesan/Regional Reconciliation Committees can seek support from other Committees for grant requests that have impact beyond their Diocese/Region or are in excess of the Committee's budget.

The Committee's role is central to the success of the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund by ensuring that grant requests to the Fund are consistent with the Fund's General Criteria/Guidelines for granting and that such grants made by the Fund have the maximum positive impact in their Diocese/region.

Committees are expected to exist for up to 7 years or until all of the monies contributed by the local Diocese/Region have been granted by the Fund.

## General Criteria and Granting Guidelines

The IRF has established General Criteria and Granting Guidelines to assist Diocesan/Regional Reconciliation Committees in their local engagement of and discernment with Indigenous Partners.

The IRF Board reviews the grant applications, and when approved, disburses the funds to the projects and initiatives that meet the guidelines and are within the budget of monies contributed to the Fund by the Diocese or Region. The review process includes an evaluation matrix, to score the proposals and intent with a specific focus on the following guidelines:

- Healing and Reconciliation for Communities and Families;
- Culture and Language Revitalization
- Education and Community Building
- Dialogues involving Indigenous Elders, Spiritual Leaders and Youth with focus on Indigenous spirituality and culture.

## Grant Application Process

Once a reconciliation project or initiative has been deemed to have local significance by a Diocesan/Regional Reconciliation Committee (or its equivalent), the Committee is to complete the Grant Application using the form found below. Grant applications, with its related attachments, and signed by the Local Diocese/Regional Reconciliation Committees, are to be forwarded electronically to [admin@IRFund.ca](mailto:admin@IRFund.ca). Upon receipt of the grant application, the Administrative Officer will review its contents and work with the Diocesan/Regional Reconciliation Committee to make any necessary changes to ensure compliance with the General Criteria and Granting Guidelines prior to the



**2. Describe how the project is consistent with Fund granting criteria and guidelines:**

**3. Provide evidence of success of similar projects, if any:**

**B. Project Detail: DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION RECEIVING THE FUNDS**

**1. Name and brief history of the organization**

**2. Confirm organization's charitable or qualified donee status (and provide CRA numbers)**

**3. Provide evidence that the organization can carry out the proposed project (or a description of any other organizations that will assist in the proposed project)**

**4. Provide any testimonials on the project and the funded organization:**

**5. Attach recent audited financial statements (If unavailable, please provide the latest financial information provided to the CRA Charities Directorate)**

Statements/information are attached (please check the box)

**6. Contact information for key individual at the organization receiving the funds:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing address:**

**C. Project Detail: DESCRIPTION OF USE OF FUNDS**

**1. Summarize expenses by category:** (i.e. salaries, purchased goods or services, etc.)

**2. Summarize program expenses by programme area:** (if applicable)

**3. Summarized expenses by year:** (if applicable)

**D. Project Detail: AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER PARTNERS IN THIS PROJECT**

**If this project is being done in partnership with other entities or NPOs, please attach proposed agreements between the organization to be funded by this grant and the other organization(s)**

Draft agreements/information are attached (please check the box)