

Press Release

For Immediate Release – July 29, 2022

Statement on Pope Francis's Apology to the Indigenous Peoples of this Land

The institutional members of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities in Canada are pleased that Pope Francis has apologized to the Indigenous Peoples *on this Land* for the Catholic Church's role in the operation of residential schools. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #58 requested that the pope apologize to the "Survivors, their families, and communities for the Roman Catholic Church's role in the spiritual, cultural, emotional, physical, and sexual abuse of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children in Catholic-run residential schools" in Canada.

This apology represents an important and necessary step, but there are many steps that need to be taken by the Catholic Church in the process of reconciliation. These further steps include ensuring all documents are released by religious orders, dioceses, and archdioceses regarding Catholic-operated residential schools to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation; delivering upon the \$30 million pledge to Indigenous communities to support survivors; and drawing on Indigenous spiritual wisdom and authentic Catholic Social Teaching to bind the wounds of our tragic history and heal the harm inflicted on our common home.

In unison with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB), we too as the leaders of Canada's Catholic universities and colleges are also called to work toward reconciliation and implement the Calls to Action. We recognize that we must continue to work to enrich our curriculums with Indigenous knowledge, listen to the guidance offered by Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and Indigenous colleagues; and provide added supports and safe spaces for Indigenous students that respect and honour their heritage, including Indigenous spirituality.

Link to Pope Francis's Remarks and Apology:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/pope-francis-maskwacis-apology-full-text-1.6531341>

About Us

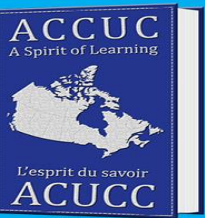
The Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities in Canada (ACCUC) is an organization of Roman Catholic institutions of higher education located across Canada. The ACCUC acts as the official voice for Catholic higher learning in Canada, as it seeks to spread "the spirit of learning" throughout the country.

Sincerely,

John Cappucci, Ph.D.
Chair, ACCUC
Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Assumption University, Windsor

Carl Still, Ph.D.
Vice-Chair, ACCUC
President, St. Thomas More College, Saskatoon

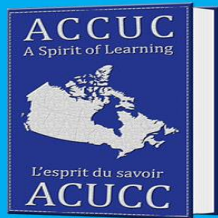
Peter Meehan, Ed.D.
Immediate Past Chair, ACCUC
President and Vice-Chancellor, St. Jerome's University, Waterloo



ACCUC
The Spirit of Learning

ACUCC
L'esprit du Savoir

**Association of Catholic
Colleges and Universities in Canada**



Christopher Adams, Ph.D.
Rector, St. Paul's College, Winnipeg

Chantal Beauvais, Ph.D.
Rectrice, Université Saint Paul/Saint Paul University, Ottawa

Shawn Flynn, Ph.D.
President, St. Joseph's College, Edmonton

Lauretta Frederking, Ph.D.
President, Brescia University College, London

Rob Harasymchuk, M.B.A.
President and Vice-Chancellor, St. Peter's College, Muenster

Sami Helewa, S.J., Ph.D.
President, Campion College, Regina

Michael Higgins, Ph.D.
Principal, St. Mark's College, Vancouver
President, Corpus Christi College, Vancouver

David Malloy, PhD
President, King's University College, London

Gordon Rixon, S.J., Ph.D.
President-Designate, Regis College, Toronto

Dawn Russell, Q.C.
President and Vice-Chancellor, St. Thomas University, Fredericton

David Sylvester, Ph.D.
President and Vice-Chancellor, University of St. Michael's College, Toronto

Gerry Turcotte, Ph.D.
Principal-Elect, St. Mark's College, Vancouver
President-Elect, Corpus Christi College, Vancouver

Sinda Vanderpool, Ph.D.
President and Vice-Chancellor, St. Mary's University, Calgary

Jason West, Ph.D.
President, Newman Theological College, Edmonton