



Te Rūnanga Whakawhanaunga i ngā Hāhi
(Māori Ecumenical Council of Churches)



Anglican Indigenous Network

Statement of Solidarity with the Indigenous Peoples of Canada

We, Te Rūnanga Whakawhanaunga i ngā Hāhi o Aotearoa (Māori Ecumenical Council of Churches)¹ and the Anglican Indigenous Network (AIN)² make this statement in solidarity with the Indigenous Peoples of Canada. We extend our heartfelt sympathies and aroha (love) to the indigenous families and communities affected by the discovery of unmarked burial sites at the Indian Residential Schools in Kamloops, Cranbrook, Brandon, and Marieval (Cowessess).

We acknowledge and condemn the actions of successive Canadian governments that facilitated (through residential schools) the deliberate and intentional eradication of indigenous culture. We denounce the colonial policies that were designed to forcibly assimilate indigenous peoples into white, western society.

We acknowledge and deplore the role that the Christian Churches played particularly the Roman Catholic Church and Anglican Church in the separation of thousands of indigenous children from their families and the exposure of those children to horrific abuses and inter-generational trauma.

We recognize the symbolic acts of apology from the government and Christian Churches (for example the apology by the Anglican Church in Canada, as well as the ongoing work of reconciliation by the church³) as a positive step toward restoring indigenous faith and as a means of moving toward justice and reconciliation. We call on Pope Francis to make a formal apology for the atrocities committed at Catholic residential schools.

¹ Te Rūnanga Whakawhanaunga i ngā Hāhi is the Māori ecumenical council of churches in Aotearoa New Zealand. Established in 1982, our mission is to serve the one ecumenical movement, uplifting the prophetic voice of Māori communities of faith, and promoting Māori unity, witness and service in our churches and communities.

² The AIN is one of the authorised Networks of the Anglican Communion. It is a forum for bringing together Indigenous Anglicans worldwide to share about mission, ministry and concerns. It currently represents Indigenous Anglicans from Canada, USA, Hawai'i, Australia, Aotearoa/New Zealand.

³ Refer to The Anglican Church of Canada's apology for residential schools, <https://www.anglican.ca/tr/apology/>

We commend and affirm the survivors of residential schools who have bravely shared their stories. We support and affirm the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and the '94 Calls to Action' and call on the Canadian government to urgently finish the work of implementing these actions.

We as Māori, as Tangata Whenua, as Mihinare (Anglicans), as Hāhi whānui (ecumenical member churches) of Aotearoa, New Zealand, we listen, we sit, we speak, we stand, in solidarity with the Indigenous Peoples of Canada.

Contact for this statement:

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