

The Archdiocese Reconciliation Project Review Committee

The Archdiocese Reconciliation Project Review Committee was formed in 2023 to review and recommend projects submitted for the fund. The Archbishop invited local Indigenous and Non-Indigenous leaders to sit on the committee.

We are grateful to our committee members:

- Most Reverend Archbishop Emeritus Richard Gagnon
- Most Reverend Archbishop Murray Chatlain
- Ken Beaudoin, Metis Elder
- Fr. Stan Fontaine, First Nations Elder
- Sr. Norma Macdonald, CSC, Religious Ally and Mentor
- Marcelle Marion, IRF Coordinator
- Mary Nirlungayak, Inuit Elder
- Barbara Thompson, First Nations Elder



How Were Projects Selected for Funding?

The Committee has established the following priorities for its grant applications:

- Healing and reconciliation for communities and families;
- Culture and language revitalization;
- Education and community building; and
- Dialogues for promoting Indigenous spirituality and culture.

The Committee selected 4 criteria for applications:

- A non-profit agency or organization
- Active in the past 2 years
- Have a plan of action – short-duration, self-sustaining project
- The project beneficiaries would reside within the Archdiocese of Winnipeg geographical boundary.

The Archdiocese of Winnipeg's Indigenous Reconciliation Fund

In 2021, the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund (IRF) began its journey at the Archdiocese of Winnipeg as part of the national \$30 million fund that was set up to accept donations from Catholic Dioceses across the country for local projects that advance healing and reconciliation. The Archdiocese pledged and succeeded in raising **\$663,223** towards the IRF.



Indigenous
Reconciliation
Fund



ARCHDIOCESE OF
WINNIPEG

"Thank you to all who supported raising the funds that allowed us to partner with these many good Indigenous-led organizations. The funds helped these good works happen but also increased our Catholic Church's understanding of needs in our communities. Our relationship with the people involved in these good works has deepened. Megwitch"

-Archbishop Murray Chatlain



Clan Mothers Inc. \$150,000
Project Nôhkom – My Grandmother’s Place

IRF Funds facilitated the completion of three housing structures on land located in Belair, MB. As part of an Indigenous village complex where for residents to receive traditional on-the-land healing programs led by and for Indigenous women.



Sandy Bay First Nation Gaa-wiikwedaawangaag Council of Elders \$60,000 Over 2 Years

The IRF funds supported two programs over two years. The first on the theme of truth, exploring the Residential Schools’ impact on the First Nation’s community. The second is to explore strategies for personal growth and resilience through Returning to Spirit Workshops.

Assiniboia Residential School Legacy Fund \$50,000

IRF funds supported the construction of the Assiniboia Residential School Commemorative Monument and Gathering Place.

Tootinaowaziibeeng First Nation Elders Circle \$25,000

The IRF funds will support cultural and traditional practices on Treaty 4 Traditional Territory including workshops to educate their youth and community members on IRS survivorship and their journey to wellness and healing through Ojibway culture and language.

Méssion à l’omb’ dju cloche: Year of Hope Pilgrimage Parish Project St. Laurent Grotto Parish Committee \$40,000

The town of St. Laurent and its parish are home to a settlement of devout Metis-Catholics dating back to the 1800s. The funds support the restoration of the historic grotto site at the parish as part of the “Year of Hope Pilgrimage”. The grotto committee aims to have the full restoration ready for the 80th anniversary of the Grotto in 2027.

Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation Elder Council \$23,723

IRF funds supported a four-day healing vigil that included ceremonies, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and Fire Keepers offering traditional teachings.

Hollow Water First Nation Anishinaabe Justice Worker Conference \$10,000

In April 2025, Objibwe Hollow Water First Nation hosted a conference on Restorative Justice. Justice workers and Elders were able to explore Indigenous-led Ojibwa culturally-based models and processes, involving victims, offenders, and families. The IRF funds provided financial support for this conference.

Circle For Reconciliation, Inc. (CFR) \$28,000
Mínwastá Kákike: To Repair Forever

The IRF funds supports facilitated dialogues via online webinar group gatherings. Using an educational resource guidelines which offer guiding principles, theme guides, and resources. The webinar series will be held through 2025 and 2026.

University of Manitoba National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation Learning Lodge \$32,000

The IRF funds supported the construction of the NCTR museum and research complex at the University of Manitoba. The learning lodge facility is a unique cultural and scientific landmark and will form part of a network for human heritage and discovery in the world.

Rolling River Ceremonial Arbor Project \$100,000

The funds were used for the construction of a new ceremonial arbour, as the existing arbour was in a state of disrepair. It was completed in time for the 25th Traditional Pow Wow held July 18-20th, 2025. Such gatherings celebrate Indigenous culture through ceremony, dance and song.

Returning to Spirit Reconciliation Inc Project Walking Together in Reconciliation Start Up \$44,500

IRF funds supported the start-up of a selection of experiential reconciliation workshops. The organization is at the beginning stage for one-on-one workshops with Indigenous-led trainer development for interested persons to deliver in-person workshops in Winnipeg areas.



Returning to Spirit Reconciliation Inc Project Walking Together and Building Sustainable Relationships \$100,000

IRF funds supported an expansion of programs in Brandon and other First Nation communities. Experiential models allow for space to exchange ideas and learn from each other. The organization offers Indigenous-led training to build capacity for an upcoming generations of legacy Residential School Survivors.