



**WALKING
TOGETHER**

POPE FRANCIS CANADA
24 - 30 JULY 2022

**MARCHER
ENSEMBLE**

PAPE FRANÇOIS CANADA
24 - 30 JUILLET 2022



Credit: Vatican

CLC STATEMENT OF WELCOME TO POPE FRANCIS ON HIS UPCOMING VISIT TO THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF CANADA

Concerned Lay Catholics in Canada (CLC) welcomes the Papal Visit to Canada as an opportunity of hope for healing among Indigenous peoples and a further step to reconciliation among all people living in Canada. The commitment of His Holiness Pope Francis to apologize in Canada is rooted in his love and support for all people. We witnessed this genuine outpouring of emotional support in the apology to Indigenous peoples that took place in Rome in late March 2022.

CLC encourages you to pray that Pope Francis will maintain the physical strength to carry out the mission to Canada as he is welcomed to each community. With this visit, all Catholics in Canada are given an opportunity to follow in the footsteps of Pope Francis by learning about the culture, traditions, beliefs, and true history of Indigenous peoples and acknowledge they are an integral and valuable part of how Canada is defined. As we grow together as a Church on our journey of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, it is a time for Catholics to look to the words and actions of Pope Francis as our guide. We encourage you to review the link to the following schedule for the Papal visit and make a commitment to view as much of the visit as possible as witnesses of this historic occasion.

<https://www.papalvisit.ca/schedule/>

Further, CLC fully supports the Truth and Reconciliation Report Calls to Action #58-60 regarding the church parties and residential schools, and we welcome Pope Francis' apology in Canada in fulfillment of Call #58. In addition, it is the intention of CLC to work with the Canadian Catholic Church in fulfilling the other Calls to Action at <http://www.trc.ca/>. We hope you will be encouraged by the Papal visit to hold a service in your parish or community to help prepare, such as this one developed by Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle of the CCCB. [You can download the pdf here.](#)

You may also wish to take advantage of the following link to a presentation made by The Honourable Graydon Nicholas at the Development and Peace Orientation Assembly in Halifax on June 18. Reflecting on the theme *Create Hope*, Graydon spoke of his own journey towards Reconciliation as one of the 500,000 Indigenous Catholics in Canada. <https://www.papalvisit.ca/graydon-nicholas-reflections/>

Concerned Lay Catholics in Canada
concernedlaycatholics@gmail.com
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