



# Canada's Federal Election and the Catholic Church:

*Educate, Reflect, Act*

## INDIGENOUS ISSUES WORKING TOWARDS RECONCILIATION

Many Canadians see reconciliation with Indigenous peoples – First Nations, Inuit and Métis – as a priority. As a country, we can restore positive relationships and move forward together. Voting responsibly means engaging in dialogue with Indigenous communities on ways to reduce poverty and ensure adequate funding for education, health care, clean water and housing.

To continue this work, governments are asked to meaningfully consider the final report of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls inquiry and the calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

All levels of government, but especially the federal government, can work to strengthen employment and income security in order to support reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

*MORE ABOUT WORKING TOWARDS RECONCILIATION ON REVERSE*

## FACTS

- 56 First Nation reserves are under drinking-water advisories, meaning their water is or may be unsafe for people to consume.
- Indigenous males are seven times more likely to be homicide victims than non-Indigenous males.
- Indigenous females are almost three times more likely to be violent crime victims than non-Indigenous females.



## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION BEFORE YOU VOTE ON OCTOBER 21, 2019:

- Why do you think disparities exist between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people?
- How do we continue the path of reconciliation and dialogue?
- What concrete actions can the Canadian government take to improve the lives of Indigenous people?

## WORKING TOWARDS RECONCILIATION

The Catholic Church in Canada has heard the painful stories and ongoing anguish of those abused in residential schools operated throughout the country. Since the early 1990s bishops and religious communities connected to the operation of the schools have apologized and reconciliation efforts throughout the country continue to this day. Our Catholic community must advocate where any injustice remains, recognizing the unique history and contributions offered by Indigenous peoples.

A synod on the Amazon will begin on October 15, 2019 at the Vatican. It will have a special focus on the rights of Indigenous people in that region. Canadian Catholics are encouraged to reflect on what we can learn from this synod.

## OUR SOCIAL TEACHING TELLS US...

“It is essential to show special care for Indigenous communities and their cultural traditions. They are not merely one minority among others, but should be the principal dialogue partners, especially when large projects affecting their land are proposed. For them, land is not a commodity but rather a gift from God and from their ancestors who rest there, a sacred space with which they need to interact if they are to maintain their identity and values.”

—*Pope Francis, Laudato Si’ (On Care for Our Common Home), 2015, #146*

“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.”

—*Ezekiel 36:26*

“In recent years, we have seen many examples of healing and reconciliation and we are committed to building on these efforts, working in close partnership with one another and learning to walk together ... We look forward to a future where systemic injustices are meaningfully addressed, where we all discover new ways of living together through which the First Peoples of this land are honoured and respected.”

—*Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2018 President’s Letter to the Indigenous Peoples of Canada*

Want to attend a debate with 1,000 Catholics or learn more about other issues leading up to the October 21, 2019 election?

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