



Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

The Right Reverend Samuel Rose, B.A, M.Div (Hon)
Bishop of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

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Bishop's Pastoral Letter National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we approach September 30, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, I invite our entire Diocese to pause and reflect on the painful legacy of residential schools and the ongoing journey toward healing and justice for Indigenous peoples in Canada. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Final Report and its 94 Calls to Action, a significant milestone in our collective commitment to reconciliation. This day calls us to honour the survivors, remember the children who were lost, and commit ourselves anew to the work of reconciliation as followers of Christ, who reconciles all things to himself.

We were particularly blessed by the recent visit of the National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop, The Most Rev. Christopher Harper, to Happy Valley-Goose Bay and Rigolet in Labrador this past weekend, which has served as a powerful reminder of the importance of building relationships and walking together in faith. Also present was the Canon for Indigenous Ministries and Advocacy, Canon Tom Mugford, who led us through a powerful "Mapping the Ground we Stand On" exercise, which any parish can request him to present as an educational resource for reconciliation.

In the spirit of this sacred observance, and as a tangible step in our diocesan commitment to truth-telling and relationship-building, I request that our Diocesan Land Acknowledgement be read at the beginning of each worship service in every parish across the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador on Sunday, September 28, 2025. This simple yet profound act reminds us of the lands we share, the histories we must acknowledge, and the hope we hold for renewed partnerships with Indigenous communities. The Land Acknowledgement is attached to this letter.

Furthermore, with strong support from the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples, our Primate invites all Anglican parishes in Canada to display the Survivors' Flag as a sign of awareness, acknowledgment, and respect for residential school survivors, their families, and their communities. This flag now hangs in my office at Church House, and I encourage each parish in our Diocese to join in this meaningful gesture, displaying the Survivors' Flag as a visible commitment to the ongoing work of reconciliation. You can order a flag at [Survivors' Flag - NCTR](#).

A Prayer from Indigenous Ministries, written to accompany the Covenant of 1994:

**Creator God,
from you every family in heaven and on earth takes its name.
You have rooted and grounded us in your covenant love,
and empowered us by your Spirit
to speak the truth in love,**

and to walk in your way towards justice and wholeness.
Mercifully grant that your people,
journeying together in partnership,
may be strengthened and guided
to help one another
to grow into the full stature of Christ,
who is our light and our life.
Amen.

May God's Spirit guide us in humility and love as we walk this path together.

Yours in Christ,
The Rt. Rev. Samuel V. Rose
Bishop of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

Yours in Christ,

+ Samuel: Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador

The Right Reverend Samuel V. Rose
Bishop of Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador





Land Acknowledgement

To be used in the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador

Effective 16 October 2024

As we gather in this space today and commit to sharing time together, we should consider for a few moments the land on which we gather.

While we think about this land, we also consider the air we breathe, the golden rays of sunshine, and even the fog, rain, and snow in these parts. For Mother Earth, her lands, her waters, and the air we breathe are the gifts she provides.

We respectfully acknowledge the Island of Newfoundland as the homelands of the Beothuk and Mi'kmaq. We also respectfully acknowledge Labrador as the homelands of the Inuit and the Innu.

Let us take a moment to acknowledge all First Peoples of this land.

It is this land that sustains us, and we should open our hearts and minds to the past, live in the present, and commit to building a better future for all in the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation.