

Treaties Recognition Week

This year, Nov. 2 to Nov. 8 is Treaties Recognition Week in Ontario. It is a time when we honour the importance of treaty rights and relationships. By learning more about our collective treaty rights and obligations we can create greater understanding and nurture relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

Since 2019 councils have started their meetings with a land acknowledgment as a sign that they commit to building better relations and to learn more about Indigenous Peoples of this land. How is your council doing in building these relationships and learning more towards reconciliation?

One way would be for councils to prayerfully consider supporting the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund (IRF). Has your council continued in its commitment to donate \$2 per member to the **Indigenous Reconciliation Fund**? (Community Life Communiqué #10 July 27, 2022) The fund was created to accept donations from 73 Catholic dioceses across Canada in support of Indigenous-led healing and reconciliation initiatives, fulfilling the \$30 million financial commitment made by Canada's Bishops in September 2021. The Fund supports locally determined projects in collaboration with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit partners. It operates with a strong focus on transparency and good governance and is overseen by a Board of Directors composed of Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders. As of the end of September, the Fund has raised over \$21 million, putting it on track to exceed its five-year \$30 million goal. Councils are encouraged to donate through their local diocese and to ensure that the diocese knows that it is a CWL donation. For further information about the Fund, visit www.irfund.ca

During and beyond this week, we encourage you to deepen your knowledge of the lands you live and work on, and join Ontario Provincial Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in our efforts to support better relationships between Indigenous People and the people of Canada.

To learn more about treaties in Ontario, visit ontario.ca/treaties

Events & Videos: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/treaties-recognition-week>

Learning Resources: <https://www.ontario.ca/.../treaty-teaching-and-learning...>

In this Holy Year of Jubilee, we are called to reflect on our journey as Pilgrims of Hope. We are invited to discern how we may reconcile with those who may have caused us pain and we strive to build anew relationships that have been fractured in the past. As pilgrims on the journey, we remain mindful of the profound words offered by the late Pope Francis during his visit to Lac Ste. Anne, Alberta, a place of

prayer and pilgrimage: *"May the Lord help us to move forward in the healing process, towards an ever more healthy and renewed future."*

St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Protectress of Canada, pray for us.

Sue Lubowitz
OPC Service Chairperson