



CONFÉRENCE DES ÉVÊQUES CATHOLIQUES DU CANADA
CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

15 July 2009

Mr. Justice Murray Sinclair
Chair
Truth and Reconciliation Commission
90 Sparks Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H4

Dear Mr. Justice Sinclair:

In the name of the Catholic Bishops of Canada, I wish to congratulate you and your two fellow Commissioners on your recent appointments to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and to assure you of our prayers and collaboration as the Commission begins its service on behalf of reconciliation and truth.

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops believes that the work of the Commission will be extremely important in the process of healing and renewing not only the relationships of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians, but also the relations between the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada and the Catholic Church in our country. We trust that the Commission will be able to build on the many significant initiatives and declarations from the present and the past – those by Catholics, in addition to other Churches and faith communities, as well as by the leaders of the Assembly of First Nations and of other indigenous groups and associations. We also believe that the Commission will be assisted and inspired in its endeavors by the 29 April 2009 Audience of Pope Benedict XVI with Canadian Catholic and Aboriginal leaders, which in its own way marked a milestone in the journey toward new forms of cooperation and partnership with indigenous peoples.

For these reasons and more, the enclosed message by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, issued on 1 May 2008, remains most pertinent in its assertion that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is “an opportunity for healing and hope”.

May you and your fellow Commissioners be assisted by the Spirit of truth and hope, of healing and reconciliation.

Sincerely,

+V. James Weisgerber
Archbishop of Winnipeg
President
Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops