

What is the objective of the website/campaign?

The [website/campaign](#) is an invitation for Catholics to ignite or deepen our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation alongside Indigenous peoples through donations and action pledges.

Does this qualify towards the Catholic Church's reparations?

This movement is inspired, in part, by the [Settlement Agreement](#) and the "[best efforts](#)" campaign. Whether there is a shortage in the "efforts" has been heavily debated among lay Catholics, especially on the Facebook group. While the Catholic Church has no outstanding legal obligation, there seems to be a newfound, collective desire among Catholics to engage in and respond to Truth and Reconciliation.

We will be keeping track of our total gifts in the hopes that these funds will be counted in some way towards Catholic efforts in Truth and Reconciliation. We hope to connect many Bishops' efforts as options for donations as they roll out those plans in the coming weeks and months. We encourage all Catholics to discern where and how they make their commitments of action and funds.

The intent however, is not to fulfill any specific institutional or legal obligation through a one-time, monetary donation. This campaign was created as a space for Catholics to deepen a personal and ongoing commitment to Truth and Reconciliation, alongside the Indigenous Peoples. This campaign cannot dictate when truth is fully told and when we are fully reconciled. But Catholics can continue to listen, learn, and respond to the Calls to Action.

Are the Catholic Dioceses involved in organizing this?

While some members of the [organizing committee](#) consult, partner, and collaborate with their respective Dioceses, none of us work directly for any of the Dioceses or Parishes. We want to work alongside our Bishops as a support to pre-existing initiatives and as instigators of new ones. That said, we cannot speak on behalf of any of the Bishops or Diocesan administration.

How were the three organizations chosen?

The organizing committee suggested over a dozen different nationwide organizations which were then carefully researched. In order of priority, we made sure each organization is:

1. Nationwide and comprised of primarily Indigenous staff, board of directors, and/or partners
2. Committed specifically to responding to any or all of the 94 Calls to Action from TRC
3. Legally and logistically capable of receiving small and large private donations
4. Open/neutral to the betterment of Indigenous-and-Christian and/or Indigenous-and-nonIndigenous healing and friendship

After looking through what's available on the organization websites and public records, we narrowed it down to Reconciliation Canada, Returning to Spirit, and First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada. We decided to choose three organizations instead of just one because it is evident these organizations meet the criteria above and approach Truth and Reconciliation uniquely from each other. We reached out to all three organizations, they are all aware and openly partnering with our campaign.

How is the money being collected?

We looked at 6 different third-party platforms and other fundraising alternatives in order to legally, transparently, and securely collect and transfer the funds directly to the organizations. After researching, we decided to use CanadaHelps.org because:

1. While it functions, similar to GoFundMe and other crowdfunding platforms, it is the only registered non-profit that caters specifically to Canadian charities and organizations
2. It is the only platform that allows multiple charities to be added in one campaign and donors can choose how they want to allocate their money to each organization
3. It has a very transparent report on their [transaction fees](#) and what it's used for
4. All the proceeds from CanadaHelps transaction fees goes towards providing charities with affordable access to online fundraising and educational tools
5. It will allow us to add any other registered charity in Canada that the campaign may choose to support in the future

None of the donations are handled by the organizing committee and the platform sends the donations directly to the designated charities.

What is the total monetary goal? How was this number chosen?

We have a starting goal of \$50,000 to be raised in 3 weeks. While this may be an ambitious number, this is an educated estimate based on the number of people active on the Facebook group and the number of Catholic individuals that we know within our respective circles.

Apart from the monetary goal, we wish to engage Catholics to commit to individual, tangible efforts to respond to the Calls to Action. [We've provided various examples and resources](#). Without these ongoing commitments, there is a danger that our donations will be mere performative acts that allow us to absolve ourselves of our continuing responsibility. We believe it is necessary for us to commit to the work of truth and reconciliation.

Is there a vetting process for the organizing committee and fund advocates?

There is no official vetting process for the organizing committee and fund advocates. All of the organizing committee and fund advocates are active members of the Facebook group, Catholics for Truth and Reconciliation, where we all got connected.

After the initial planning, the organizing committee sent out a request for help in order to get the word out about the campaign. Each fund advocate is asked to contact the committee directly via the committee's email. The fund advocates are provided comprehensive information to the objective of the campaign, support, as well as guidelines for posting and sample "posts" to use for their individual campaigning. As we are a grassroots movement of lay Catholics, we are by no means a homogeneous group and there are many different perspectives and opinions held by our members. The campaign itself cannot speak for (or be represented by) all the diverse personal agenda or perspectives of each individual member. That said, we are putting our best efforts not to stray away from the primary objective of the campaign.

Are there other things notable for the sake of transparency?

- A handful of Indigenous peoples (some were Catholic, some were not) and non-Indigenous Catholics were invited to screen, edit, and comment on the contents of the website prior to its launch. They were offered stipends for their time and effort. These stipends came in the form of cash love offerings and/or gift cards (under \$50 each), all paid for by organizing committee members.
- All organizing committee members and fund advocates are 100% unpaid volunteers.
- One of the members of the organizing committee is an unpaid board member of Returning to Spirit. This member attends 10 monthly meetings a year and is not involved with any financial direction or the day-to-day running of Returning to Spirit. Returning to Spirit needed to meet the same campaign standards as the other organizations.
- Approximately \$140 was allocated towards the website domain and hosting. This was paid by organizing committee members and a donor that was willing to cover some of the administrative costs required to run the campaign.
- The organizing committee members have approached some but not all of the Bishops of Canada to inform them of this campaign. We will continue our communications efforts with all the Dioceses for the entirety of the campaign.
- Monetary donor information is collected through CanadaHelps and distributed to the designated charities (if this option is selected by the donor). The organizing committee members have no access to those records.
- The action pledges under ACT and “offer my gift” surveys under GET INVOLVED are collected through Weebly forms and Survey Monkey, respectively and managed by the organizing committee. The contact information will be used solely for campaign updates and to forward to the donor’s respective Bishops/Dioceses (if this option is selected by the donor). Bishops will contact donors upon their discretion and the organizing committee will likely not be involved in this process.
- The organizing committee will inform donors of any changes in usage or transfer of ownership/hosting regarding confidential donor information and donors will always be given an easy way to “opt out” or unsubscribe.