



# Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

The Right Reverend Samuel Rose, B.A, M.Div (Hon)  
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## Bishop's Letter to the Diocese National Indigenous Day of Prayer

Dear Friends in Christ,

National Indigenous Peoples' Day is an annual celebration in Canada that honours the history, heritage, and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. On June 21st of each year, Indigenous peoples share their culture, stories, and traditions with non-Indigenous peoples, thereby promoting a greater understanding and appreciation of Indigenous peoples among all Canadians. National Indigenous Peoples' Day also acknowledges the resilience and strength of Indigenous communities in the face of historical trauma and ongoing systemic barriers. It is an opportunity for all Canadians to learn about and celebrate the diverse cultures and contributions of Indigenous peoples in Canada.

The National Indigenous Day of Prayer, observed on June 21st every year, is a day set aside to recognize and celebrate the spiritual and cultural contributions of Indigenous people in this land and to the Anglican Church of Canada. This day is also an opportunity for Anglicans to acknowledge the ongoing impact of colonialism and the need for reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in Canada. Through prayer, reflection, and education, we can seek to build greater understanding, healing, and respect between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in our country.

In our Diocese, we are blessed to have the gifts and ministries of many Indigenous Anglicans in our parishes. I acknowledge two such persons, Canon Tom Mugford and the Rev. Sarah Baikie, who, as Indigenous spiritual leaders, bring tremendous gifts in ministry and awareness of our deep relationship with the Creator and a renewed stewardship of Mother Earth. Also, I will soon be inviting the new Anglican National Indigenous Archbishop, the Most Rev. Christopher Harper, to be with us in our Diocese in the near future to learn more about his ministry and our mutual interdependence with the Indigenous Church that is called Sacred Circle.

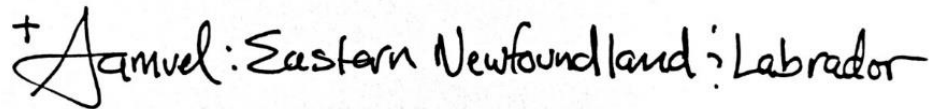
For this year's National Indigenous Day of Prayer, I encourage all our parishes to use liturgical resources provided by the Anglican Church of Canada in their worship on **Sunday, June 25, 2023**, which can be found here: <https://www.anglican.ca/im/nidp/>

Also, our Diocese uses the following Land Acknowledgement, which I also ask to be used at the beginning of worship on June 25:

**“We respectfully acknowledge the land on which we gather as the ancestral homelands of the Beothuk, whose culture has now been erased forever. We also acknowledge the island of Newfoundland as the unceded, traditional territory of the Beothuk and the Mi'kmaq. And we acknowledge Labrador as the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Innu of Nitassinan, the Inuit of Nunatsiavut, and the Inuit of NunatuKavut. We recognize all First Peoples who were here before us, those who live with us now, and the seven generations to come. As First Peoples have done since time immemorial, we strive to be responsible stewards of the land and to respect the cultures, ceremonies, and traditions of all who call it home. As we open our hearts and minds to the past, we commit ourselves to working in a spirit of truth and reconciliation to make a better future for all.”**

The last line of the Land Acknowledgement says, **“As we open our hearts and minds to the past, we commit ourselves to working in a spirit of truth and reconciliation to make a better future for all.”** That is my prayer for us as a Diocese as we are shaped into the Church and the People God calls us to become.

In peace and love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samuel: Eastern Newfoundland; Labrador". The signature starts with a cross symbol (+) and is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Right Rev. Samuel Rose  
Bishop of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador