



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

CHURCH HOUSE
22 Church Hill
St. John's, NL A1C 3Z9
Telephone: (709) 576-6697
Fax: (709) 576-7122
Email: bishop@anglicanenl.net

Bishop's Pastoral Letter to the Diocese National Indigenous Peoples' Day 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

National Indigenous Peoples' Day, celebrated annually on June 21st, is a time to honour the rich history, vibrant heritage, and enduring contributions of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples across Canada. This day invites all Canadians to engage with Indigenous cultures, stories, and traditions, fostering greater understanding and appreciation of these cultures. It also serves as a moment to recognize the resilience of Indigenous communities in the face of historical injustices and ongoing systemic challenges, calling us to renewed commitment to justice, healing, and reconciliation.

The National Indigenous Day of Prayer, observed on June 21st, holds special significance for the Anglican Church of Canada. It is a sacred opportunity to celebrate the spiritual and cultural contributions of Indigenous peoples to our Church and this land. It is also a time for reflection, acknowledging the painful legacy of colonialism, including the Anglican Church's role in residential schools, and recommitting ourselves to the journey of reconciliation. Through prayer, education, and action, we seek to build relationships rooted in mutual respect, understanding, and love between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

In our Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador, we are deeply enriched by the gifts and ministries of Indigenous Anglicans in our parishes. I am grateful for leaders such as Canon Tom Mugford and the Rev. Sarah Baikie, among others, whose wisdom, faith, and commitment to Indigenous spirituality inspire us all. Their ministries remind us of our sacred connection to the Creator and our shared responsibility to care for and reverence Mother Earth. Since my last letter, we have continued to deepen our relationship with the Indigenous Church through the Sacred Circle, the Anglican Church of Canada's Indigenous-led ministry. I am delighted to share that we have welcomed the Most Rev. Christopher Harper, the National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop, to our Diocese in the past year and look forward to his visit to Labrador this September. His visits strengthen our understanding of our mutual interdependence and inspire us to continue walking together in the spirit of reconciliation.

Our Diocesan Theological College, Queen's College, has also played a vital role in this journey by offering educational opportunities that deepen our understanding of Indigenous histories, cultures, and spiritualities. Through workshops, courses, and community engagement initiatives, Queen's College is helping to equip clergy, lay leaders, and

parishioners with the knowledge and tools to advance truth and reconciliation in our Diocese and beyond.

As we approach the National Indigenous Day of Prayer in 2025, I encourage all parishes to incorporate the liturgical resources provided by the Anglican Church of Canada into their worship on Sunday, June 22, 2025. These resources, available at <https://www.anglican.ca/im/nidp/> offer meaningful ways to honour Indigenous voices and spirituality in our services.

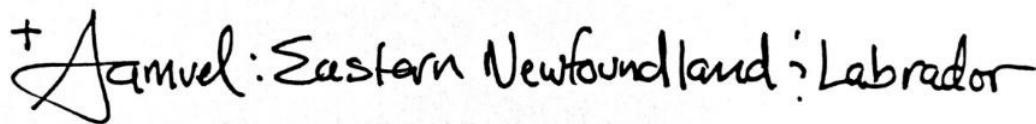
I also encourage that parishes use our Diocesan Land Acknowledgement at the beginning of worship on June 22:

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.

Our Diocese has taken further steps on the path of reconciliation. We have engaged in educational initiatives, supported Indigenous-led ministries, and fostered dialogue to deepen our understanding of truth and reconciliation. The contributions of Queen's College, alongside these efforts, reflect our commitment to learning and growing together. Yet, we know this work is ongoing. Our Land Acknowledgement calls us to "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." This remains my prayer for our Diocese as we continue to listen, learn, and act in ways that honour God's call to justice and love.

Let us mark this National Indigenous Day of Prayer with renewed dedication to building a Church that reflects the Creator's vision of unity, respect, and healing for all peoples.

In Peace and Love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samuel: Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Above the first letter 'S' of 'Samuel' is a small cross symbol.

The Right Reverend Sam Rose
Bishop of Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador