

Papal visit funding for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities



Pope Francis is preparing to visit Canada from July 24 to 29, 2022, to advance reconciliation between the Roman Catholic Church and Indigenous Peoples. This visit is being organized by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops in consultation with Indigenous partners.

In the spirit of reconciliation, the Government of Canada is supporting Indigenous communities and organizations to meet the needs of Survivors and community members throughout the papal visit. This includes helping communities and organizations acknowledge the visit or participate in papal visit events.

The Government of Canada is providing support to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities, including urban and off-reserve organizations, for community-led initiatives related to the July 2022 papal visit and the legacy of residential schools, including healing activities, events, ceremonies and travel for Survivors.

These funds provide Indigenous communities and organizations with the flexibility to implement their own trauma-informed and culturally grounded responses to their Survivors' and members' needs before, during and after the papal visit.

Who this funding supports:

- First Nations communities and organizations, including self-governing and modern treaty nations
- Inuit communities and organizations
- Métis organizations and communities
- Specific urban and off-reserve Indigenous communities and organizations

How it works:

Funding will be provided to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities and governments, as well as a limited number of urban Indigenous organizations and organizations that serve Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQIA+ people. Communities and organizations will be contacted directly.

Wherever possible, support for communities and organizations for activities related to the papal visit will flow through existing contribution agreements and funding streams through the Mental Wellness program (the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch of Indigenous Services Canada and the First Nations Health Authority in British Columbia), or through Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples. Funds can be used to reimburse expenses for eligible activities that have already been incurred. Recipients are encouraged to consider partnering together to hold joint activities.

Supported activities include:

- Coordinating and funding events related to the papal visit, such as viewing events, gatherings to mark the historic event, and events that commemorate Survivors or children who did not return from residential schools.
- Cultural activities or initiatives for Survivors, family members, intergenerational Survivors and community members, such as ceremonies, on-the-land activities, traditional healing and cultural activities.
- Renting or purchasing resources or supplies related to organized viewings of the papal visit, events or cultural activities, such as audio-visual equipment, tents, laptops, food for traditional feasts, traditional medicines, supplies for cultural activities, etc.
- Providing honoraria to Elders, traditional healers, cultural practitioners, ceremonialists and Knowledge Keepers.
- Support for health and cultural support workers or other community-based workers.
- Language or cultural revitalization initiatives to address the ongoing impact of residential schools, among other purposes.
- Improving access to mental health supports, such as hiring a regulated mental health professional (social worker, psychologist) to provide mental health supports to individuals, families or groups, or to provide supports to health and cultural support workers and other front-line staff.
- Other activities intended to enhance culturally relevant and safe approaches to the mental wellness of Survivors, family members, intergenerational Survivors and community members.
- Funding for travel and travel-related costs of Survivors, people who provide support to Survivors, and intergenerational Survivors to be able to attend papal visit events in person.

Reporting requirements:

Papal visit funding provided to communities and organizations will be subject to the same reporting requirements as other Mental Wellness or Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples funding.

Other residential school supports:

The National Indian Residential School Crisis Line provides immediate, culturally grounded emotional support and crisis intervention to Survivors of Indian Residential Schools and their family members. The toll-free line is open 24/7 at 1-866-925-4419.

The Hope for Wellness Help Line provides immediate, toll-free telephone and online chat-based support and crisis intervention to all Indigenous Peoples in Canada. This service is available 24/7 in English and French, and upon request in Cree, Ojibway, and Inuktitut. Trained counsellors are available by phone at 1-855-242-3310 or by online chat at hopeforwellness.ca.

The Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program provides mental health, emotional and cultural support services to eligible Survivors of residential schools and their families: [Indian Residential schools Resolution Health Support Program \(sac-isc.gc.ca\)](https://sac-isc.gc.ca).

More information:

For **more information on the papal visit**, including the **itinerary** and **registration** for in-person events in Alberta, Quebec and Nunavut, visit <https://www.papalvisit.ca>.

More **information on the Government of Canada's support** for Indigenous governments, communities and organizations during the papal visit can be found at <https://www.canada.ca/papalvisit> or by contacting your local First Nations and Inuit Health Branch regional office (or the First Nations Health Authority in British Columbia).