



**FEDERATION OF  
THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF CANADA**

***“THE LOVE OF CHRIST HAS GATHERED US  
TOGETHER AS ONE”***

**May 31, 2021**

**Subject: Federation Statement of Commitment**

**How are we connected to the Kamloops tragedy?**

It is heart-wrenching to learn of the remains of 215 children found at the former Kamloops residential school. Yes, the Truth and Reconciliation report told us about these missing children but to hear about a mass grave of children in Canada, and to know there are likely more such graves, as yet undiscovered, is deeply disturbing.

Given that this residential school was a Catholic-run institution, it is important to turn to the statements released by the Kamloops Bishop and the Vancouver Archbishop. Bishop Nguyen of Kamloops joined his voice with others who are “heartbroken and horrified” and expressed his deepest sympathy to Chief Rosanne Casimir of the Tk’emlups te Secwépemc. He also offered assurance of personal support, prayers and accompaniment.” The statement from Archbishop Miller wrote about the “ongoing need to bring to light every tragic situation that occurred in residential schools run by the Church.”

Such statements matter. Still, the moment requires more.

It is not enough to see this tragedy simply as an event from the past. Catholics are challenged to acknowledge how we, today, are connected to these deaths. How have we internalized the colonial assumptions and attitudes that have shaped our social, cultural, economic, and political systems? Where have racist assumptions become rooted in our subconscious? What are we doing to de-colonize our minds and hearts?

**P.O. Box 487, 485 Windermere Road, London, ON N6A 4X3  
519-642-7029**

**[can.csj-fed@bellnet.ca](mailto:can.csj-fed@bellnet.ca) [www.csj federation.ca](http://www.csj federation.ca)**

Here is one action that might move us forward as a Church.

We, the Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada, commit to urging the local bishops in the dioceses in which we live and work, to join with all Canadian bishops to request that Pope Francis visit Canada and offer a formal apology to the Indigenous peoples of this land, as has been requested by many Indigenous groups. Will you join us?

Sue Wilson, CSJ  
Office for Systemic Justice  
Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada

**P.O. Box 487, 485 Windermere Road, London, ON N6A 4X3  
519-642-7029**

**[can.csj-fed@bellnet.ca](mailto:can.csj-fed@bellnet.ca)   [www.csjfederation.ca](http://www.csjfederation.ca)**