

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau
Office of the Prime Minister and Privy Council
80 Wellington St., Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

April 2, 2018

Re: Papal apology to residential school survivors

Mr. Prime Minister,

We hope that you spent an enjoyable Easter with your family over the recent holiday – it is in the spirit of Easter that we write to you today.

Easter is traditionally a time of renewal. But in Canada, there can be no renewal, and the work of reconciliation will not be complete, without an apology from the Pope to survivors of residential schools for the role of the Catholic Church in the abuse of countless Indigenous youth throughout Canada, as demanded by Call to Action 58 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report.

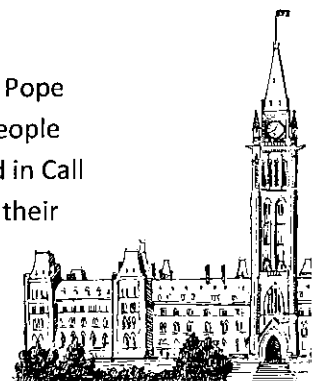
Much like you, we were profoundly saddened by the news that the Pope would not be making a visit to Canada to apologize for the Church's role in the horrific residential school system. This Pope has apologized in the past to the Indigenous peoples of the Americas for the role of the Church in colonialism, and his predecessors have apologized for institutional and systemic abuse at other times and other places. We have full confidence in light of that that Pope Francis understands the gravity and scope of the Church's role in the heinous abuse that occurred in the residential school system.

It is our understanding that a papal visit to any country typically comes at the behest or invitation of that country's bishops – in Canada, they are assembled in the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, who declined at their recent convention to invite the Pope to make this apology.

That is why we are hoping you will reach out to the Canadian bishops to reconsider their decision.

We will be bringing forward the following motion in the House of Commons:

That the House call on the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (a) to invite Pope Francis to Canada to apologize on behalf of the Catholic Church to Indigenous people living in Canada for the Church's role in the residential school system as outlined in Call to Action 58 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report, (b) to respect their



obligation to raise the funds agreed in the 2006 Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement and (c) to make a consistent and sustained effort to turn over relevant documents when called upon by survivors of residential schools, their families and scholars working to understand the full scope of the horrors of the residential school system in the interest of truth and reconciliation.

We would like to ask for your support of this motion in the interest of reconciliation. It is past time that a formal apology was made to Canada's survivors.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Charlie Angus, MP
Timmins—James Bay

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Romeo Saganash, MP
Abitibi—Baie-James—Nunavik--Eeyou