

We respectfully direct this letter to attention of:

His Holiness Pope Francis  
Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of the Toronto  
Gerard Paul Bergie, Bishop of Diocese of St. Catharines

The residential school system in Canada resulted in the abuse, trauma and even death of an incredible number of Indigenous people. This type of trauma spans generations and continues to deeply affect many even today. Recently, the discovery of the unmarked and unidentified remains of 751 Indigenous children at the site of the former residential school in Cowessess, Saskatchewan, 215 in Kamloops, British Columbia and the more than 100 found at the site of a former residential school in Brandon, Manitoba. These are just three instances of the countless pieces of evidence of heinous acts including rampant sexual abuse, emotional abuse, physical abuse, forcible removal of children from their parents, neglect, and malnutrition committed at these schools.

These schools were run at the will of the Canadian government by various Christian denominations. Many of these schools were run and administered by Catholic orders, priests and nuns. The things that were done to the victimized children were disgusting and not a part of our faith. Nonetheless, the abusers in these Catholic run schools were acting as members and representatives of the Church. Nothing can undo the harms done to the victims and their families of these crimes. Our faith calls on us to treat all of God's creation with respect and dignity. The residential schools, including those run by operatives of our Catholic Church, treated the Indigenous children that were entrusted in their care without respect or dignity. They were treated as less than human and this was done by people who were at the time acting in the name of the Church. We acknowledge that the Vatican did not explicitly direct the exact treatment of these children but there is no arguing that these crimes against children and families were perpetrated by members of our Church and at times covered up or condoned by other members of our Church. This letter is not a condemnation of our faith or the Church as a whole. In fact, it is our faith in action as we are trying to start the process of reconciliation with our brothers and sisters in God by condemning actions by some that are the complete antithesis of what Jesus calls us to do.

We are calling on the Church to officially apologize for the role of some of its clergy in the systemic and abhorrent abuse of the Indigenous children of the residential school system in Canada. Jesus calls on us to do what is right. The only morally correct path forward is for the Church to accept its role and do what it can to ease the continued grief and suffering of the Indigenous people of Canada. This includes a formal apology and the release of any and all documents from these schools. Failure to accept responsibility will only exacerbate the pain and suffering of these families and tarnish the image of the Church. We are asking the Church to act in the way that Jesus taught us and in the way that we do our best to teach our students to act; with honour, integrity, love and in the image of Christ.

We, the undersigned educators of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, look forward to

your response with hope.

Name	School	Job/Position
Jo-Anne Taraba	Notre Dame College School	Visual Arts Educator
Angela Maccaroni	Blessed Trinity C.S.S. - Grimsby	Teacher - Secondary
Melanie Saskin	Saint Paul CHS	Teacher
Cristina Chimienti	Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary	Teacher
Julio Candeloro	Saint Paul Catholic High School	Teacher
Karen Kirley	Saint Michael Catholic High School	Teacher
Amanda Di Carlo	St. Michael Catholic High School	Teacher
Michael Pietrangelo	St. Michael	Teacher
Joanne Milinkovich	Saint Michael Catholic	Teacher
Lisa Dewar	St. Michael Catholic High School	Guidance Counsellor
Andrew Chase	Saint Michael Catholic High School	Teacher
Tiffany Schoonings	St. Michael Catholic High School	Teacher
Antoinette Lambert	Saint Michael High School	French Teacher
Anita	Denis Morris	Teacher
Mat Siscoe	Saint Paul	Science teacher
Crystal Almeida	St. Paul Catholic Secondary School	Teacher
Jennifer Cormier	Saint Michael Catholic High School	Teacher
Anne Harold	Notre Dame College School	Educational Resource Teacher
Michel Lucas	Saint Francis	Teacher
Karen Oreskovich	Saint Paul Catholic HS	Teacher
Robin Ellis	Notre Dame College School, Welland, ON	Secondary Teacher
Paige DiMercurio	Saint Michael Catholic High School	Teacher
Matt Miani	Saint Paul Catholic High School	Teacher

Carlee Forte	Saint Michael CHS	Teacher
Randy Allen	St. Michaels H.S.	Teacher
Tina Lambert	Saint Francis Catholic Secondary School	Program Chair Arts/Social Science/Visual Art Teacher
Liana Ciccarelli-Moore	St michael	Teacher
Laura mckean	Various	Teacher
Melissa Marino	St. Francis	Teacher
Amanda Mellen	Denis Morris	Teacher
Karen van Ophem	Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School	Teacher
Michelene Hauber	Saint Francis	Teacher
Joanne Armstrong	Saint Michael Catholic High School	Teacher
Dina Di Carlo-MacLean	Saint Paul Catholic High School	Teacher
Elizabeth Sacilot	St Francis Catholic High School	Teacher
Ted Shellhorne	Saint Paul	Teacher
Ryane McKenzie Mallett	Supply	Educational assistant
Cristina Rotella	Occasional Teacher	Occasional Teacher
Catrina	Occasional Teacher	Occasional teacher
Ashley McFarland	NCDSB	Child and Youth Worker
Shannon	All over Niagara	Secretary
Brittany Kalbfleisch	Saint Francis Secondary	Casual Librarian
Paola Storto	Niagara Catholic Virtual School	Grade 3
Sarah Remillard	Our Lady of Fatima, St. Catharines	Teacher
Kim	Cardamone	Educational Assistant
Valerie Volpini	St. John Catholic Elementary School	Secretary
Luciann Brown	St. Andrew	Teacher
Bernadette Peso	St. Michael Catholic Elementary	Teacher
Talia Mete	No school (occasional teacher)	Occasional Teacher
Suzana Mrakovcic-Dy	St Patrick	Teacher
Kristen Dean	Notre Dame	Secondary Teacher
Samantha Booth	Saint Paul Catholic High	Program Chair of

	School	Science
Janet Seca	Holy Cross	Teacher
Catherine Jeffrey	St. Martin Catholic	classroom teacher
Alexandra Belanger	Occasional Teacher	Occasional Teacher
Julie Wills	St Theresa	Teacher
Luisa Fazio Candeloro	Saint Paul Catholic High School	Teacher
Maria Orsini	Occasional teacher	Teacher
Irene Costantini@gmail.com	Saint Paul	Teacher
Vanessa Bisson	St. George	educational assistant
Corey Quinn	Holy Cross	Guidance
Tish Badawey	Lakeshore Catholic	Teacher
Rich Alderson	Saint Francis	Teacher
Lori Bata	Denis Morris	Teacher
Pat Ricci	Saint Michael Catholic High School	Teacher
Jennifer Maurice	Notre Dame College School	Secondary Mathematics Teacher
Ashley Griffin	LTO	Teacher
Tim Chalmers	Saint Francis Catholic Secondary School	Program Chair / Teacher
Tori plyley	Ncdsb	Teacher
Paul Fenech	None	LTO
Amanda Lamb	Notre Dame College School	Full Time Teacher
Charlene Drolet	Our Lady of Victory	Educational Assistant
Julia Tota	St. Ann	Instructor
Kelly Maslink	Loretto Catholic	Teacher
Winnie Mozzoni	Denis Morris Catholic High School	Secondary Teacher
Kateri Marandola	Our Lady of Fatima, SC	Teacher
Christine Joyce	St. Kevin	Teacher
Maria Pasto	Loretto Catholic	Teacher
Laura Sgambato	Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School	Educational Assistant
Kyle V Feldhousen	Loretto Catholic Elementary	Head Caretaker
Paul Zamora	Notre Dame College School	Religion Teacher
Sylvia Berezowski	Saint Paul	Teacher