



June 28, 2021

STATEMENT ON SCHOOLS and the GRANDIN NAME

The Archdiocese of Edmonton thanks Alberta Catholic school trustees and district staff for their leadership and sensitivity regarding the name of Bishop Vital-Justin Grandin, central Alberta's first bishop.

Bishop Grandin represents a controversial and mixed legacy. While he is remembered for the many good things he accomplished, the association of his name with the tragic legacy of residential schools is a reminder to students, staff and the community of very painful experiences.

When the Truth and Reconciliation process held one of its national events in Edmonton in 2014, Archbishop Richard Smith offered a public apology on behalf of the Catholic Bishops of Alberta and the Northwest Territories for the harm done to students in residential schools by members of the Catholic Church. However, healing will take a long, long time. For now, we can do our utmost to stanch the bleeding of the wound that's been opened by recent events.

Archbishop Smith and the people of the Archdiocese share the anguish and sadness felt by Indigenous Peoples, and indeed all Canadians, after the discovery of hundreds of unmarked graves on former residential school sites in Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

The Archdiocese of Edmonton is committed to truth and to reconciliation. Archbishop Smith has pledged full transparency with respect to any relevant archives and records, and sharing them with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, offering any support that we can to Indigenous peoples and continuing to walk together along the long road towards reconciliation led by Indigenous leaders themselves.

Here is [additional information](#) regarding residential schools in an FAQ we released recently.

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