

## **Creating Sacred Space for the Use of the Anglican Healing Fund**

### **Purpose of the Anglican Healing Fund**

The purpose of the Anglican Healing Fund is to address the legacy of the Indian Residential School Experience by advancing the healing of former residential school students, their families, their descendants, and their communities; to support development of capacity building skills and life sustaining values; and to inspire them to embrace the spiritual renewal of their individual lives, and collectively as communities.

*Where are “we” as the former residential school students?* We live in many different places on Turtle Island but our collective experience as former residential school students connect us to one another. Today we are aging - some of us are now elders or older adults. For some of us, our unresolved grief and suffering continues to scourge the well being of some of our family members and our kinship system. Some of our families have been hit hard by the opioid epidemic that is the most recent tragedy in a long series of intergenerational trauma that we desperately want to shake off from our being. Nonetheless, many of us continue to hold on to our faith in the Creator by offering our daily prayers in our Mother Tongue and the English language, the human sounds that help process our healing. Honestly we know from the depths of our hearts, we want our beloved children to realize their full potential as intelligent, loving and compassionate human beings so that in their lifetime they can eagerly contribute to the progress of Indigenous Peoples of the world. We want all of our children to be the vanguard of the advancement of this human civilization as this is our destiny.

### *Healing ~ Physically, Mentally, Emotionally and Spiritually*

*Arising in human consciousness.* We understand from our experiences in the residential schools, wiping out is a factor of human destruction, a cause of human lowliness, a source of human fear and misery. Some people turn to damaging substances such as methamphetamines, alcohol and behaviors to numb their physical and emotional pain, and to distract themselves from their sense of inner emptiness and misunderstanding. This damage affects their lives and the lives of their relatives. Today in our Indigenous communities, many currents are pushing people apart, not drawing them together. Shared honourable principles are wearing down and threatening the existing agreement about right and wrong. Further, our will to engage in collective action has been charged by forces of factionalism, hence the unity of our community has been weakened. On the other hand, out of our human destruction and suffering, a gradual rise in the consciousness of Indigenous Peoples and our masked attraction to justice, to solidarity, to collaboration, and to compassion is budding to spring forth stability into our lives. But knowledge alone is far from enough – a power of implementation is needed by establishing new bases for human happiness and returning to our ancestral ways of nurturing individuals, families and communities. And in this mingling of social action we can allow ourselves to empower one another to become supporters of building of a new life.

*Taking another look at our Indigenous Families.* Although we are still reeling from the pain of shattered family life brought upon us through the onrushing gales of genocide, we cannot remain overwhelmed. Once again we must arise and direct our energies on the healing of our family members for a family is a special kind of community. Members have duties and responsibilities

that vary from member to member because of their natural relationship. To help ourselves, the rules of sacredness and qualities must be restored. Family unity must be preserved if unity and peace of the planet is to be realized. The conditions surrounding the family surround the nation. The occurrences in the family are the occurrences in the life of the nation. Humanity is like a bird with its two wings – one is male the other female. Unless both wings are strong and urged by common force the bird cannot fly upward. They must be on the same level and enjoy equal rights. The principle of equality of men and women is the drive of family life.

***Spirit of Encouragement.*** We all have capacities to develop and we all have a responsibility to advance the welfare of the whole. Participation is a prior requirement for social transformation. It means getting involved with decision making – the process of identifying concerns, creating solutions and approaches, enjoying benefits and determining criteria for reflection. Thus, encouragement is viewed as an expansion of vision, capacity and willpower while the bottom line is, we are all agents of human wellbeing.

***Mother Tongue and Words.*** Our ancestors taught us the way we name ourselves and others, and the world we live in, has a powerful influence in how we think, feel, act, interact and approach our lives. As we move forward in our healing journey, let us consider the notion of human beings creating a new vision to represent our lives that is conducive to our collective spiritual advancement and in the building of relationships with dignity and unity. Let us bring alive our ancient teachings for the betterment of our community through good deeds, kind words, service to others and collaborative actions.

***The nobility of the human spirit.*** Human is a spiritual being and only when he or she lives in the spirit is he or she truly happy. This awareness belongs to all human beings and explains the spiritual longing felt in varying degrees by every one of us. Our ancestors taught us that human nature is naturally social. It means we cannot actualize our full intellectual and spiritual capacities without positive interaction with other people. All of us are linked together like a chain. Mutual aid and interaction are among the entrenched properties and the cause of the development and growth. Henceforth, as we walk along on the healing path, let us remind ourselves that every one of the hopeless lives we encounter is an opportunity for you and me to develop our humanity. This is the nobility of the human spirit.

***Our Heart's Desire*** – All over again our children must not be oppressed because they are undeveloped, instead they must be patiently trained with the spirit of love – the greatest of all living powers!