

A ministry of the whole church by the whole church

## Lent 6: The Gift of Non-Stipendiary Clergy

“The Council of the North is blessed by the ministry of hundreds of non-stipendiary clergy. In many cases they are unpaid; some of them have full-time secular vocations; some of them devote themselves full-time to their ministry without adequate compensation or support,” says Bishop Michael Hawkins (SK), Chair of the Council of the North.

These northern ministers are a true example of the Christian ideals of self-sacrifice and humble service. They are also a great strength of our Church. One of the gifts many of them bring is the ability to preach and teach in Indigenous languages.

The Rev. Sam Halkett, a non-stipendiary priest who serves 3 First Nations communities in the Diocese of Saskatchewan, is grateful for the training he received at James Settee College: “It helped me to understand the Gospel more—and it helped me in my Syllabics and my Cree! When I deliver the message, I can do it in both languages.” In addition to his parish work, Halkett also now teaches syllabics through James Settee and leads a Cree language course at the Cathedral in Prince Albert. He is passionate about keeping alive the traditional knowledge of the elders: “There are still elders out there that have that syllabic reading, and I guess from them we kind of understand the message more deeply, because our language is unique, so specific and so deeply rooted,” he says.

Training schools like James Settee College also exist in Mishamikoweesh, the Diocese of Brandon and the Diocese of the Arctic and are one of the ways our Church is supporting non-stipendiary priests.

**Prayer:** *“We thank you for those in the Council of the North who have taken on this sacrificial work, those who carry out the mission of the Church in the north on behalf of the whole Church. As a Church, help us to listen to their wisdom, and show us how we can better support them. Amen.”*



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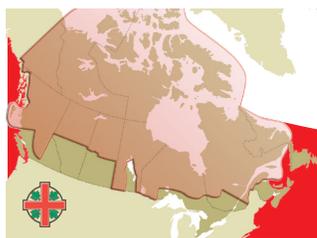
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