



New Beginnings

*The Journey
Continues*

The church's response
to the signing of a residential schools agreement
with the federal government

A PUBLICATION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD
OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

October, 2003

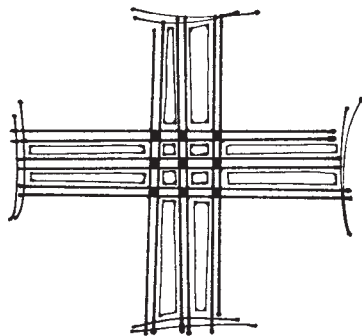
The Agreement in Brief

On March 11, 2003, the Anglican Church of Canada signed an agreement with the federal government that effectively ended its involvement in what had been financially crippling court cases over the church's role in running native residential schools. The agreement called for the establishment of a settlement fund that would compensate people who could prove claims that they had suffered physical or sexual abuse while attending the schools. The church – General Synod and each of the 30 dioceses – committed itself to paying \$25-million into the fund over the next five years. This, under the agreement, was to be the limit of the church's financial commitment in providing compensation. If claims eventually exceeded this amount, they would be paid by the federal government.

The agreement was not the end of the story, but marked a significant turning point for the church. Before the agreement, General Synod was on the brink of financial ruin. Afterwards, it was assured of survival. In a subsequent marathon round of meetings, each of the church's 30 dioceses ratified the agreement and agreed to the financial commitment it described.

A lot has happened since then, and a lot remains to be done. Raising the money required to meet the terms of the agreement has proven to be a significant challenge for dioceses and many have used innovative and creative means to meet their commitment.

This publication is an update on some of the things that have happened since March 11, 2003, a date – it bears repeating – that marked a turning point rather than an end. The journey continues.



The Anglican Church of Canada Resolution Corp.

The Anglican Church of Canada Resolution Corp. was created early in 2003 to meet the requirements of the Settlement Agreement. The Agreement required that a corporation be established to accept donations from General Synod, dioceses and individuals, and to pay plaintiffs whose claims had been validated – either by trial, pre-trial settlement, or alternative dispute resolution (ADR).

The Anglican Church of Canada Resolution Corp. is not a charity, and cannot issue charitable receipts. Individuals wishing to make a donation to the Settlement Fund can do so through their parish, diocese or General Synod.

As of late September, 2003, the corporation has received \$6,900,610. It has paid out \$1,426,938.59 in settlements to 55 plaintiffs, all of whom had their claims validated by pre-trial settlement.



How General Synod, the dioceses and individuals are responding

General Synod's share of the Settlement Fund is \$3-million. To date \$2.4-million has been contributed. Bank interest so far this year has totaled \$50,841. Individuals have contributed \$2,569.50 directly through General Synod. The total amount of proposed gifts is \$25,716,518, of which \$22,716,518 has been pledged by all of the dioceses of the church over five years.

Four dioceses – Quebec, Moosonee, Athabasca, and Yukon — have paid their full five-year commitment, drawing upon diocesan reserves. The former Diocese of Cariboo – now called the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior — has contributed \$10,000. Other dioceses also contributed generously to the fund in 2003 and are well on the way to reaching their pledged share for this year.

Dioceses are meeting their commitment through a variety of means including drawing on reserves, selling assets, seeking gifts from diocesan groups such as the Anglican Church Women, reducing diocesan expenses, and, most often, inviting individual Anglicans to contribute directly through their parishes.

For example –



The Diocese of **NOVA SCOTIA AND PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND** has begun a five-year fundraising campaign both to meet its commitment to the fund and to develop a vision of ministry. Parishes will benefit from the campaign by getting back 20 per cent of what they contribute to the Settlement Fund goal so that they can develop their own vision and have an additional source of funding.



In the Diocese of **MONTREAL** quarterly payments are coming from diocesan reserves, and at the same time Anglicans are being encouraged to make voluntary contributions to replace these reserves. A campaign is underway, using bulletin inserts on five consecutive Sundays followed by a personal letter from the Archbishop of Montreal. Individual diocesan committee members have personally pledged contributions to show their own commitment and leadership.



The Diocese of **NIAGARA** has divided its share among parishes, asking each to covenant with the bishop for their fair share. In fact, the diocese has asked each parish to consider a stretch gift of its fair share plus 10 per cent. Special offering envelopes are being made available to parishes, and a financial statement has been sent to each parish showing where it is relative to its goals.



In **TORONTO** the Archbishop has established The Archbishop's Challenge, asking all individual Anglicans, parishes and church organizations in the diocese to send him at least \$100 this year to go to the Settlement Fund. As of September, 2003, \$746,814 has been raised through 3,196 gifts. Parish groups have raised money in all sorts of creative ways, ranging from pancake suppers, lunches, the sale of meat pies, flower arrangements and ceramics, and donations from committees or study groups. One parish held a series of Lenten Wednesday services called Traveling the Road to Peace, with guest speakers preaching on peace. Following the service, everyone took part in a lunch. The proceeds from the offerings and the lunch were allocated to The Bishop's Challenge. When St. Peter's, Carlton Street celebrates its 140th anniversary in October, the parish dedicated all donations that day to the Archbishop personally



OTTAWA designated Sunday, Nov. 23 as Settlement and Reconciliation Sunday. A Residential Schools Settlement Commission has been established to coordinate educational efforts to keep the Fund "on people's radar screen" in order to raise \$320,000 annually for the next five years. To date 300 individuals have pledged more than \$214,700 over five years, with additional pledges expected. One person from a small parish pledged \$500 a month. "The family decided that the Residential School Settlement cause was very just and that they would contribute more than usual to help those who could not make a contribution," that donor said.

Ottawa has prepared a resource package for each parish, including bulletin covers, background information, liturgical aids, book marks, and suggestions for parish fundraising. On-going reports on the work of the Commission appear in each edition of the diocesan newspaper, *Crosstalk*. There is also material on the diocesan web site with information and updates. An annual Sunday will be designated throughout the diocese to celebrate the church's relationship with aboriginal people, focusing on healing and reconciliation progress and The New Agape, the church's charter for a renewed partnership.



The Diocese of **ONTARIO** has given individual Anglicans special offering envelopes and circulated bulletin covers and background information booklets provided by General Synod Communications. Parishes have been asked to agree to fair share goals and to invite their members to contribute generously. A commemoration of National Aboriginal Day is planned for June 2004 in Tyendinaga. As well, parishes are having special events raise awareness and offer a means of contributing to the Settlement Fund.



Bishop Andrew Atagotaaluk of the **ARCTIC** has written to every parish asking for a contribution of \$14,582 each over the five-year pledge period, using special envelopes for the appeal.



In **EDMONTON** \$475,000 out of a proposed gift of \$500,000 was met through an undesignated reserve fund. This was followed by an appeal from Bishop Victoria Matthews for those who wished to support the fund to make a \$1,000 contribution. This could be managed by an outright gift, by 10 individuals each giving \$100, or parishes collectively contributing \$1,000. Contributions have come from individuals, lay and clergy, parishes, and diocesan and parish Anglican Church Women. Edmonton expected to meet its target by the end of 2003.



The Diocese of **CALEDONIA** sold the historic Bishop's Lodge and allocated \$90,000 from that sale to meet its commitment for the first three years. A pledge campaign is expected to raise enough money for the subsequent two years.



The Diocese of **NEW WESTMINSTER** is conducting a capital campaign to generate its \$1.6 million obligation to the Settlement Fund. Contributions are being requested over a three-year period. The diocese hopes that the capital campaign will raise significantly more than the minimum required so that additional money can be directed to General Synod's – and the Diocese's – First Nations programs for healing, reconciliation and restorative justice.

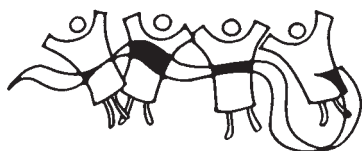


In the Diocese of **BRITISH COLUMBIA**, the Settlement Fund is supported by a fair share assessment formula. Parishes are encouraged to develop and share their fundraising or heightened stewardship activities. A monthly stewardship newsletter is published, providing lists of activities, prayers, themes, bulletin inserts, parish newsletter articles, children and youth events for one Sunday a month. At least one parishioner has purchased a charitable gift annuity to assist with her parish's fair share assessment.

Throughout the country, Anglican dioceses have responded generously, imaginatively and creatively. There is a momentum. Five years is a long time. It is important that the momentum be maintained.

Suggestions for your parish and diocese

A review of what dioceses and parishes across the country are doing may encourage creative approaches to providing support for the Settlement Fund over the next five years.



Here are some practical suggestions:

At the diocesan level –

Establish a diocesan task force or commission to give leadership to this urgent and compelling obligation and responsibility.

Plan ahead – you may have looked after your first year's commitments, but how are you going to meet your responsibilities in the remaining years?

Are there assets or reserves you could contribute, with a view of replacing them through a capital campaign, special appeal, or individual contributions from parishioners through their own churches?

Consider a capital campaign to support diocesan and parish ministries and programs – including the Settlement Fund.

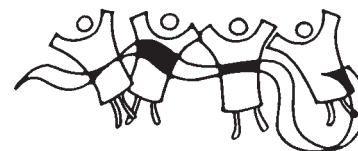
Provide special diocesan offering envelopes for the Settlement Fund, along with pew bulletin covers, inserts, and other educational materials.

Plan to commemorate National Aboriginal Day on Sunday, June 20, 2004 using some of the resources found in the A New Agape binder. Make the study of A New Agape a priority for every parish. (Web site: <http://generalsynod.anglican.ca/ministries/committees/acip/agape.html>)

Encourage deaneries, parish clusters, and diocesan groups to hold educational events to help people understand background aboriginal issues, the church's involvement in residential schools, and opportunities for reconciliation and healing

Encourage creative opportunities for special gifts to the Settlement Fund – for example, charitable gift annuities (which provide an immediate gift and at the same time a relatively high annual yield for donors for their lifetime – chiefly seniors — often tax free), and gifts of securities, with accompanying excellent tax benefits.

Include articles on the Settlement Fund and related matters in your diocesan newspaper and on your website



At the parish level –

Review diocesan suggestions (above) and see how they might be adapted to fit your parish.

Appoint a Settlement Fund parish coordinator to lead parish-based educational activities and fundraising events.

Plan a series of educational events in your parish, including special Sundays devoted to aboriginal issues, healing and reconciliation, restorative justice, and Canadian culture, using A New Agape, homilies, hymns/song, prayers, creative bulletin covers and inserts, guest speakers and/or participants from neighbouring reserves or from urban First Nations groups.

Consider having a special parish-based campaign to provide support for the Settlement Fund as well as outreach ministries and programs or other parish projects

Invite a speaker from a Council of the North diocese which has a significant aboriginal population – plan a conference, workshop,

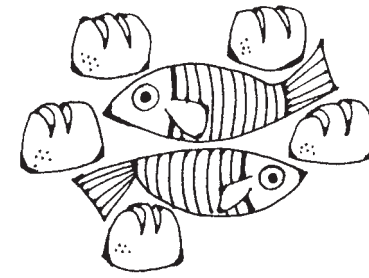
informal visit with lunch, special service and other preaching/speaking opportunities.

Plan an ecumenical study event in your community.

Encourage planned giving opportunities in your parish, inviting donors to consider the Settlement Fund as they ponder a charitable gift annuity or gift of listed securities.

Encourage parishioners to consider leaving a bequest for your parish, designating it for the replacement or enhancement of parish reserves or endowment funds.

Report on the progress of the Settlement Fund in your parish and diocese, keep the subject on the front burner, and express your appreciation for gifts offered.



Conclusion

A five-year financial commitment is a serious, and for some dioceses, an onerous commitment. It is a significant journey which requires skill, imagination and creativity. By the end of 2003, Anglicans were proving up to the challenge. The Journey Continues.

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This publication is also available on the Web, at www.anglican.ca



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October, 2003

The Anglican Church of Canada Resolution Corp. Settlement Fund
Figures as of September 30, 2003

<i>PROVINCE/Diocese</i>	<i>Proposed</i>	<i>Paid</i>	<i>Remaining</i>
CANADA			
Fredericton	762,000	254,000	508,000
Montreal	500,000	75,000	425,000
Eastern Nfld & Labrador	600,000	90,000	510,000
Central Nfld	345,000	51,750	293,250
Western Nfld	345,000	51,750	293,250
Nova Scotia	1,200,000	180,000	1,020,000
Quebec	135,000	135,000	-
ONTARIO			
Algoma	725,000	108,750	616,250
Huron	2,100,000	315,000	1,785,000
Moosonee	150,000	150,000	-
Niagara	1,885,000	282,750	1,602,250
Ontario	1,100,000	165,000	935,000
Ottawa	1,600,000	240,000	1,360,000
Toronto	5,040,000	756,000	4,284,000
RUPERT'S LAND			
The Arctic	466,643	69,996	396,647
Athabasca	125,000	125,000	-
Brandon	253,452	100,000	153,452
Calgary	200,000	30,000	170,000
Edmonton	500,000	475,000	25,000
Keewatin	185,000	100,000	85,000
Qu'Appelle	400,000	60,000	340,000
Rupert's Land	470,000	70,500	399,500
Saskatchewan	225,000	33,750	191,250
Saskatoon	300,000	45,000	255,000
BRITISH COLUMBIA & YUKON			
British Columbia	1,003,399	150,510	852,889
Caledonia	150,000	30,000	120,000
Cariboo	-	10,000	(10,000)
Kootenay	274,800	41,220	233,580
New Westminster	1,600,000	240,000	1,360,000
Yukon	76,224	76,224	-
BANK INTEREST		58,624	
DONATIONS TO GENERAL SYNOD		2,570	
GENERAL SYNOD	3,000,000	2,400,000	600,000
TOTAL	25,716,518	6,973,394	18,804,318