

April 28, 2022

His Excellency  
The Most Reverend Marcel Damphousse  
Archbishop of Ottawa-Cornwall

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Your Excellency,

We would like to introduce ourselves. We are a group of parishioners representing various parishes from our Archdiocese. We feel moved by the Holy Spirit to the work of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and are interested in supporting Kateri Native Ministry as an Indigenous Catholic organization providing much needed support and healing to Indigenous peoples still suffering from intergenerational trauma.

As a group of parishes and parishioners we feel that it is necessary to take concrete steps toward reconciliation with the Indigenous peoples within our Archdiocese. For this reason, we would like to express our support for Kateri Native Ministry in general, and more specifically, we are writing this letter in support of their endeavour to build a Healing Lodge on a plot of land near the Fitzroy Harbour ferry terminal. In discussing this project with various parishes and groups to date, we have encountered solidarity of commitment to walking together with our Indigenous brothers and sisters.

Kateri Native Ministry has been a steward of the Archdiocese owned land in Fitzroy Harbour for the past 20 years, and more recently, a 5-year lease has been in effect. With a longer commitment from the Archdiocese, Kateri Native Ministry would be able to do some longer-term planning towards the realization of this project.

We are willing to support Kateri Native Ministry for the long term in attaining their objectives. We see this as an important step to further the process of partnership with Indigenous peoples within our local archdiocese, supporting their need for a gathering place on the land that will allow them to chart a path towards healing. Please find attached a list of supporters who would like to voice their communal support for this endeavour.

This is a wonderful opportunity in our Archdiocese to do something meaningful that will help us move forward together along this path toward healing and reconciliation with our Indigenous brothers and sisters.

Thank you for your consideration and concern.

Yours in Christ,

Parishioners committed to Reconciliation from: St. Isidore Parish, Holy Redeemer Parish, St. Joseph's Parish, Canadian Martyrs Parish, St. Basil Parish