



DIOCESE OF YUKON †
ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

**A Message From
The Rt. Rev. Lesley Wheeler-Dame
Bishop, Anglican Diocese of Yukon**

May 15, 2023

Dear Friends,

As Bishop of this diocese, I welcome and fully support the recent announcements by the Yukon Residential School Missing Children Working Group to begin the search for unmarked graves on the site of the former Chooutla Residential School in Carcross, Yukon. It is an important step toward acknowledging the tragic history of residential schools and the devastating, intergenerational impact they have had, and continue to have, on Indigenous people and their communities.

The Anglican Church of Canada shares in the painful legacy of residential schools, and the church remains committed to the long, hard road of reconciliation and support for healing and trauma.

We are committed to taking the lead from Indigenous communities to assist in recovering whatever information is available. We join in advocating for ground searches of those burial sites and understand the importance of records to this work. All existing records of the Diocese of Yukon and The Anglican Church of Canada have been given to the TRC (*Truth and Reconciliation Commission*) and to the Archives of the Anglican Church of Canada.

As a Church, we have a responsibility to listen to, and learn from the stories of survivors and their families, working towards healing, reconciliation and decolonization.

As we move forward in the pursuit of truth, let us do so with humility and compassion.

In Love

Lesley Wheeler-Dame (she/her)

We, the Diocese of Yukon, acknowledge that we live and work on the traditional territories of the 14 Yukon First Nations and the First Nations of Northern British Columbia. We are blessed.