



Canadian Federation of Library Associations
Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques

Dear Minister _____,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Canadian Federation of Library Associations to express support for the release of outstanding residential school records that have yet been made public by the Catholic Church, provincial and territorial governments and all other organizations in possession of historical documents and artifacts relating to residential schools.

The release of this information should be made in consultation with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) and libraries and archives to ensure it is first made available to Indigenous peoples, while also working to minimize secondary trauma for survivors.

The Pope's recent visit to Canada is an important step in the long healing process needed. However, in order for the apology to have an impact in the journey towards reconciliation, action must be taken to uncover the full truth of the Canadian residential school system. Not only are these documents pertinent to understanding the scope of profound injustices and human rights abuses committed and by whom, they are also integral to the achievement of justice for survivors and Indigenous communities.

Following calls from the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, the federal government committed to turning over 12,000 residential school documents. To date, over five million documents and six thousand witness statements have been archived by the NCTR. However, much of our understanding remains unclear due to the continued withholding of residential school documents by the Catholic Church and other levels of government.

We have a moral obligation to survivors and Indigenous peoples to pursue and uncover the truth. Many families still do not know what happened to their loved ones in residential schools and it is imperative that they be given the access they are owed. For reconciliation to take place, truth-seeking action must come first.

As representatives of the library and archive community, we are calling on you and your government to take the steps necessary for reconciliation by working to uncover any and all documents that remain withheld.

Sincerely,

REPRESENTATIVE

REPRESENTATIVE TITLE

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations