



FSIN COMMUNIQUE

www.fsin.ca

For immediate release: July 11th, 2022

FSIN DEEPLY CONCERNED BY THE LACK OF CONSULTATION WITH THE POPE'S VISIT

(Treaty 6 Territory, Saskatoon, SK) – The Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) Executive is deeply concerned by the lack of coordination of the Papal visit to Canada. Pope Francis will travel to Canada from July 24-29, 2022, with stops in Edmonton, Quebec City and Iqaluit for the abuses suffered by First Nations at the hands of the Catholic Church.

“The Pope’s visit must do better for First Nations people, but especially Residential School Survivors. We had zero consultation on his pilgrimage to ground zero on our own lands. Many survivors don’t have the agency, money or even technology, to attend the Pope’s visit. It was poorly coordinated by Canada and Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, who dictate who fits the criteria to attend these short visits, which does not honour survivors,” said FSIN Chief Bobby Cameron. “The survivors had zero choice as children, and now some await approval from the very systems that tore them from their families, homes, culture and identity as children is absolutely ludicrous.”

The Papal visit to Canada can be re-traumatizing to many Residential Schools Survivors and community members, whether they are Catholic or not. In Saskatchewan, there was 24 – Indian Residential Schools, 74 – Indian day Schools, 2 – Indian Hospitals and numerous unmarked graves. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has listed 624 names of document deaths of children while attending Indian residential in Saskatchewan. Considering the lack of documentation remaining from these institutes, Canada nor the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops have the capacity to dictate who is eligible to attend the Pope’s visit from our First Nation communities. Please see list below on when and where the Pope’s visit will occur. For those attending the Pope’s visit, please see important information below.

Meeting with Indigenous Peoples at Maskwacis

Monday, July 25, 2022, at 10:00 am

Former Ermineskin Residential School, Maskwacis, Alberta

This is a public event intended for Indigenous Peoples, residential school or day school survivors, their families and those accompanying them for support. Information regarding priority seating allocations for survivors, Elders and knowledge keepers has been provided to National Indigenous Organizations (NIO’s), Catholic dioceses traveling with survivors and other Indigenous partners. Lists of delegates have already been completed or are being prepared. Please connect with your respective NIO, diocese or Indigenous partner. If you are a residential or day school survivor and do not have contact with an Indigenous partner, please e-mail maskwacis@papalvisit.ca

Please note there will be no parking for cars outside the venue. Information regarding park and ride shuttles as well as bus drop off/pick-up will be provided in the days ahead.

Meeting with Indigenous Peoples and Members of the Parish Community of Sacred Heart

Monday, July 25, 2022, at 4:45 p.m.

Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples, Edmonton, Alberta

This is an invitation-only event. Priority has been given to members of the Sacred Heart Urban Indigenous community.

Participation in the Lac Ste. Anne Pilgrimage

Tuesday, July 26, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

Lac Ste. Anne, Alberta

Please note that seating inside the Shrine area of Lac Ste. Anne has been reserved largely for survivors and Indigenous partners. Priority seating allocations for survivors, Elders and knowledge keepers has been provided to National Indigenous Organizations (NIO's), Catholic dioceses traveling with survivors and other Indigenous partners. Lists of delegates have already been completed or are being prepared. Please connect with your respective NIO, diocese or Indigenous partner. If you are a survivor and do not have contact with an Indigenous organization, e-mail LSA@papalvisit.ca or LSA@visitepapale.ca. For groups that traditionally travel to Lac Ste. Anne on pilgrimage, more information will be shared with you shortly.

Please note there will be no parking for cars onsite. Information regarding park and ride shuttles as well as bus drop off/pick-up will be provided in the days ahead.

Holy Mass at Commonwealth Stadium – SOLD OUT 1st Batch

Tuesday, July 26, 2022, at 10:15am

Commonwealth Stadium, Edmonton, Alberta

Please read below prior to ordering tickets.

Note the first block of tickets will be made available July 6, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. (Mountain Time). A second block of tickets will be offered on Monday, July 11, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. (Mountain Time) and a final block of tickets will be released on Monday, July 18, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. (Mountain Time).

All tickets are free. You will have an opportunity to make a contribution to support the Papal Visit if you wish to do so. Individuals may order up to 6 tickets for Mass. To facilitate participation from as many people as possible, please only order the number of tickets you know will be used.

Information regarding priority seating allocations for residential school survivors, Elders and knowledge keepers has been provided to National Indigenous Organizations (NIO's), Catholic dioceses traveling with survivors and other Indigenous partners. Lists of delegates have already been completed or are being prepared. Please connect with your respective NIO, diocese or Indigenous partner. If you are a residential school or day school survivor and do not have contact with an Indigenous organization, e-mail commonwealth@papalvisit.ca or commonwealth@visitepapale.ca.

For groups of more than 30 tickets, we ask that you make your ticket request directly by e-mail to: commonwealthgroups@papalvisit.ca The groups team will require your name, e-mail address and number of tickets requested. They will respond to you directly.

The Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations represents 74 First Nations in Saskatchewan. The Federation is committed to honouring the spirit and intent of the Treaties, as well as the promotion, protection and implementation of the Treaty promises that were made more than a century ago.

-30-

For More Information or to coordinate interviews, please contact:

FSIN Communications

Nicole Robertson, Chief Communications Specialist

communications@fsin.com