

Remembering The Children--

(I am Gary Gordon or Xyolhmetoxw my Sto:Lo name, Bishop of the Church of Whitehorse.)

I am grateful for the opportunity to leave a few words for the people gathered here this evening, (and all the people of the Diocese of Whitehorse,) as we collectively look forward to the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

As Bishop of the Catholic Church of Whitehorse, I apologize to the people who suffered from their attendance at Lower Post School, especially for the sexual and physical abuse some of you suffered from some of the staff. I also apologize to all the students and families who suffered hurt to your culture and human dignity during the Lower Post era in the Diocese of Whitehorse. To those students and families who found some blessing in their experience at Lower Post, I thank God; and I am grateful to those staff who exemplified Christ's love and care within a flawed educational approach. Yet what fills my own soul most is sorrow and indeed pain over the sins of what evil was done and what good was left undone.

The opportunity before me as the Commission begins its work, is to foster the telling of truth for all who were part of our diocesan history in the Lower Post era.

The truth of all those who were a part of that history will set us free; free for the long road of reconciliation, which I have personally been on for about 30 years with people in southern BC and now in northern BC and the Yukon. God willing I will continue to be on this road of truth and reconciliation for many years to come. This long journey from pain to hope with individuals will bear fruit for a new conversation for the future of all our children.

Bishop Xyolhmetoxw (Gary M. Gordon)

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