

Your Ceramic Feather

This special gift of a white ceramic feather is being offered to each congregation and community ministry in the diocese. The hope behind the gift is that the feather will be accepted to show a commitment to building relationships with all Indigenous peoples (First Nations, Métis, Inuit) in the Ottawa area in a new way and to symbolize the church and congregations' journey toward truth, justice, and reconciliation.

The delicate white feathers were originally crafted in 2017 for an outdoor public art installation at the Canadian Museum of Nature named "Populace" that marked Canada's 150th anniversary (see "Populace" brochure included). The symbol of the feather was chosen with the local Algonquin community as a representation of their presence on this land in the time of confederation. The feather also has special significance in most Indigenous tradition. In the installation a rose represented the English people and fleur de lys represented the French people.

Kirstin Davidson, of the Parish of March and one of the artists behind the 2017 installation has generously made the feathers available to the diocese through the All My Relations (AMR) Working Group. She said, "Placing a feather with each congregation could be a part of the journey that includes an inward promise and an outward, demonstrable commitment to embracing the uncomfortable truth of our history with Indigenous peoples and to taking a personal step towards change."

It is up to each congregation or community ministry to decide how it wants to display the feather and show its commitment to building a new relationship with all Indigenous peoples. Some ideas of how and where the feather might be displayed could include:

- display the feather by the baptismal font, the front entrance to the church, a credence table, or some other noticeable surface,
- hang the feather using a shadow box or other display box where it can be seen,
- make a simple display using a 4" x 4" x 4" wooden block (perhaps cedar) in which a ¼" diameter x 1" deep hole is drilled to hold the metal support rod (supplied with each feather). Place adhesive in the hole for the rod, and in the ceramic feather. Attach together.

Additionally, we recommend this short TVO video with Indigenous educators speaking about reconciliation at <https://www.tvo.org/video/what-is-reconciliation-indigenous-educators-have-their-say> which emphasizes that simply hanging Indigenous art, without a commitment to learning and changing, is not reconciliation.

The All My Relations Working Group welcomes your comments and questions at allmyrelations@ottawa.anglican.ca

