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Catholic Schools' Week - January 29 to February 4, 2023

Today we begin observance of Catholic Schools' Week across the province of British Columbia. On April 1, 2022, Pope Francis said the following in his address to the representatives of Indigenous Peoples in Canada, "*Dear brothers and sisters, it is my hope that our meeting in these days will point out new paths to be pursued together, instil courage and strength, and lead to a greater commitment on the local level ... to continue taking steps towards the transparent search for truth, and to foster healing and reconciliation.*" This year's Catholic Independent Schools theme is *Seeking Truth, Healing, and Reconciliation* and together, with over 22,000 students enrolled in 79 Catholic schools throughout the province, we celebrate the ways Catholic schools create environments where our Catholic story is shared and celebrated.

The Nelson Diocese currently enrolls 1238 students in 7 schools located in Penticton, West Kelowna, Kelowna, Trail, Nelson, and Cranbrook. During this special week student learning will be highlighted, our many accomplishments will be celebrated, and we honor all those staff members, parents, Council and Parent Group members, and pastors, who have contributed to our schools' level of excellence. These activities will indeed look somewhat different than in past years due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

Our sincere thanks are extended to the many parishioners throughout the diocese for their ongoing support of Catholic Education through volunteer activities, donations, financial assistance. We continue to ask for your prayers for our schools, our parishes, and our Diocese. Feel free to visit the Nelson Diocesan Schools' website for more information about the schools of the diocese (www.cisnd.ca).

