

Pope Francis to Visit Canada in July 2022 - A Visit of Healing, Hope & Reconciliation

Pope Francis will make a pastoral visit to Canada from **July 24 to 29, 2022**. The Pope's visit will provide an opportunity for him to listen and dialogue with Indigenous Peoples, to express his heartfelt closeness and to address the impact of residential schools in Canada. The papal visit will also provide an opportunity for the shepherd of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics to connect with the Catholic community in Canada.

Given the vast landscape of our country, the limited time period for the visit and considering the health of the 85 year-old Pontiff, the Vatican has announced that Pope Francis will adopt three communities as a base for his Canadian visit: Edmonton, Quebec City, and Iqaluit. The locations will limit travel for the Holy Father while still allowing an opportunity for both intimate and public encounters, drawing on participation from all regions of the country.

Specific programming and events will be confirmed approximately six weeks prior to the Holy Father's arrival.

Visit <u>www.papalvisit.ca</u> or <u>www.visitepapale.ca</u> for more information and to stay updated on the latest developments. Please continue to pray for the health of Pope Francis and for all those engaged in the ongoing healing and reconciliation journey.

Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie www.dioceseofsaultstemarie.org



Where is the Pope Visiting?

Edmonton is home to the 2nd largest number of Indigenous people living in urban Canadian centres. It is near Lac Ste Anne, a place of annual pilgrimage for thousands of Indigenous peoples from across the West and North and beyond. In addition, 25 residential schools were located in Alberta, the most of any province or territory in Canada.

Iqaluit, is the capital of Nunavut and home to 3,900 Inuit. Pope Francis was personally invited by Inuit delegates to visit the North during their meetings in March. Among the many communities in the traditional territory of the Inuit, Iqaluit has the infrastructure to accommodate an encounter between the Pope and the People.

Quebec City provides an eastern hub for those who may wish to travel to see Pope Francis, including Indigenous Peoples of the East. The region is also home to Ste. Anne-de-Beaupré, one of the oldest and most popular pilgrimage sites in North America, drawing Indigenous Peoples and others from throughout Canada and around the world each year.

A Pilgrimage of Healing, Reconciliation and Hope.