


*Andrew Carrier was baptized André Pierre Edouard Carrière at the time of his birth, at la Cathédrale de Saint Boniface, a Catholic Church. He was born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba - Canada. Like many Red River Métis children, he grew up attending Sunday church, learned Catholicism and practicing the Catholic faith. Andrew spent his earliest school years attending Sainte-Marie School in the St. Vital neighbourhood of Winnipeg. During his time at Sainte-Marie School, Andrew experienced racism, verbal, physical and sexual abuse at the hands of a nun and a priest. Later in life, Mr. Carrier's journey of healing and forgiveness was started by speaking openly about his experiences and comforting others who had similar experiences. Mr. Carrier maintains his faith in God and has a strong, ongoing relationship with the Catholic Church. Today, he is the Manitoba Métis Federation's Vice-President of the Winnipeg Region and the Minister of French and Michif Languages, Residential Schools and other portfolios. During his time with His Holiness, he hopes to convey the vital importance of protecting all children by preventing his experiences from being repeated in future generations.*

*Statement to His Holiness by Andrew Carrier:*

*Most Holy Father, as the Manitoba Métis Federation's Minister responsible for working directly with Residential and Day School survivors, I am here to give a voice to the survivors I have been so honoured to work closely with. I am also here on a more personal mission, to speak about the long-term consequences of the harms done by some individuals who did not represent God's will and kindness and abandoned their oath to live by the word of God.*

*I have wrestled with how to share with you my own personal experiences of being shamed and abused at the hands of those betrayers of God's will. It is not an easy subject for me, and it brings up many emotions that I must continue to address on my personal pathway to healing. I do not want to detail these experiences here in my time with you, but I will say that the resulting hurt will remain with me.*





*I also wish to share with you how devastating it was for me to learn that my father was also a victim of abuse at the hands of those who claim to do God's work. As with any trial we undergo in this life, I found that talking with my father and understanding his pain was a profound experience, one that allowed us both to gain a measure of healing and establish a new closeness that we enjoyed before his passing.*

*I wish for you to understand that I, like many who suffered, have not lost my faith in God or in the Catholic Church. I recognize that these evil deeds are not representative of the compassion and love of God for all children. The Bible contains many references to the consequences that these individuals will face when they must face God in the afterlife, and I am content in the knowledge that the Lord will make them understand how very wrong they were in the way they treated me and other children.*

*My hope is that the Holy See finds a way to ensure that my experiences and the experiences of my father and all other victims are never repeated. No other child should come to know the pain of finding intolerance, racism, and abuse where they should find love, acceptance, and comfort. No other child should be afraid to express their faith or their ideas in their native tongue. No other child should feel less deserving of the light of God's grace because they are Indigenous.*

*I bring to you this flag and this letter, and I humbly ask you to keep them as a way of remembering me and all the children who suffered pain, shame and abuse.*

*I also ask for your blessing so that I may carry your words in my heart when I return home. I pray that I will find the strength to continue sharing my story and inviting others to share their stories. It is only by bringing these truths to light that we can begin to heal and work toward a renewed relationship with the Catholic Church.*

*Thank you, Most Holy Father, for hearing my words and understanding the pain in my heart.*