

PROFILE OF THE CANADIAN PROVINCE

The Canadian RNDM province was born when four brave women from France, came to take up the challenges and the possibilities of life and mission on the prairies in 1898. Arriving at Grande-Clairière MB, after midnight on an August night in 1898, they later wrote of their trepidation and their trust in God.¹

Over the 125 years since then, the Sisters have made significant contributions to education, especially on the prairies, setting up eleven foundations, each attached to a school, in their first twenty-five years.

In subsequent years, they continued to settle in towns and cities in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, western Ontario and Quebec, where they operated primary and secondary schools, as well as operating significant music departments. Their educational endeavors have included nurturing and challenging intellectual curiosity, encouraging prowess in the arts, developing students' athletic abilities, encouraging civic responsibilities, and fostering faith development.

Today, we are 31 Sisters in Canada, living in Regina and Winnipeg, carrying forward our apostolic outreach in new ways. We continue to be a vital part of the international RNDM Congregation. At our 2008 Congregation Chapter RNDMs made a conscious and deliberate choice for earth, to be advocates for the life-systems and full flourishing of our common home. Each subsequent chapter has affirmed the commitments of that seminal document.

We increasingly recognize the ecological peril facing our planet home. Our growing awareness of earth as one community of life, focuses our work for today and for the future. Increasingly, we see our commitments to earth as participating in what Thomas Berry calls "the Great Work".

In 2015, with the support of RNDM Sisters world-wide, we launched a new initiative flowing from our commitment to our common home, and focused on reconciliation with Indigenous persons in Canada, We believe this is an important "Kairos moment" for all Canadians, and we want to contribute to the necessary consciousness and conversion that will help in establishing a new relationship with Canada's first peoples.

Today, as part of the web of life, within the community of earth, we seek to learn, to educate and to practice justice with ever expanding circles of need and purpose. From a seed to the cosmos, we hear the call to grow, and to expand our hearts.

For more about the RNDMs in Canada, visit their Canadian website at: <https://rndmcanada.org/>

¹ For more see: <https://rndmcanada.org/2023/02/01/twenty-five-years/>