



## ARCHDIOCESE OF EDMONTON MOURNS PASSING OF MOST REV. JOSEPH MACNEIL, ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS, AT AGE 93

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**EDMONTON, February 11, 2018** – The Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton is saddened to share news of the death of the Most Reverend Joseph N. MacNeil, Archbishop Emeritus of Edmonton, who passed away on Sunday, February 11, at the age of 93.

To the Catholic community, Archbishop MacNeil has been a beloved pastor, collaborator and friend. He had served as a priest for nearly 70 years, and a bishop over 48 years.

A native of Nova Scotia, he had made Alberta his home ever since he was installed as Archbishop of Edmonton on Sept. 5, 1973. During his 26-year term, he committed himself to the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, empowering lay people in the Church, building friendships with other faith communities, and extending the Church's efforts in social justice.

“He has served the Church in Canada, beginning in the Maritimes to the West in Alberta with unbound generosity, compassion, wisdom and of course, a sharp sense of humour,” Archbishop Richard Smith said Sunday in sharing the news with parishes of the Archdiocese. “With profound gratitude for his fruitful ministry, let us pray for the repose of his soul, and the comfort and consolation of his family and numerous friends.”

Funeral details will be announced in the coming days.

### Media Availability

Archbishop Richard Smith and Auxiliary Bishop Gregory Bittman will be available to speak with media about the passing of Archbishop MacNeil:

**Date:** Monday, February 12.  
**Time:** 10 a.m.  
**Location:** Archdiocese of Edmonton Pastoral & Administration Offices  
8421 – 101 Avenue, Edmonton

Journalists who plan to attend are asked kindly to confirm with the Communications Office at the contact points below.

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