

Atlantic Canada  
CHANGE LOCATION

[News](#) [Communities](#) [Opinion](#) [Business](#) [Sports](#) [Culture](#) [Obituaries](#) [Weather](#) [A](#)

Atlantic Canada > News

## 'First of many': St. John's archdiocese announces four properties whose sale will fund Mount Cashel compensation

Archbishop's residence in Outer Cove, Mount St. Francis monastery on Merrymeeting Road and two parcels of land up for sale; there will be many others

**Barb Sweet** · Posted: July 25, 2021, 7:50 p.m. | Updated: July 26, 2021, 7:44 a.m. | 6 Min Read

6

ADVERTISEMENT



The former Christian Brothers residence at Mount St. Francis on Merrymeeting Road is one of the properties being offered for sale by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. John's to help fund the compensation for victims of sexual abuse by Christian Brothers at the Mount Cashel orphanage in the era from the 1940s to 1960s. — Joe Gibbons/The Telegram

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. — A St. John's monastery and the archbishop's residence in Outer Cove, as well as two parcels of vacant land, are the first properties being sold by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. John's to help fund compensation for victims of sexual abuse by Christian Brothers at the Mount Cashel orphanage in the 1940s to '60s.

Archbishop of St. John's Peter Hundt made the announcement Sunday.

The monastery is the Mount St. Francis property on Merrymeeting Road; both it and the Outer Cove residence will be advertised for sale.

## Related

- [UPDATED: Schools protected from St. John's archdiocese financial restructuring: board](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

- [St. John's archdiocese downsizing to pay compensation to early Mount Cashel victims](#)
- [Archbishop warns of financial sacrifices due to loss of Mount Cashel lawsuit](#)
- [Mount Cashel victims victorious after a decision by the nation's top court](#)

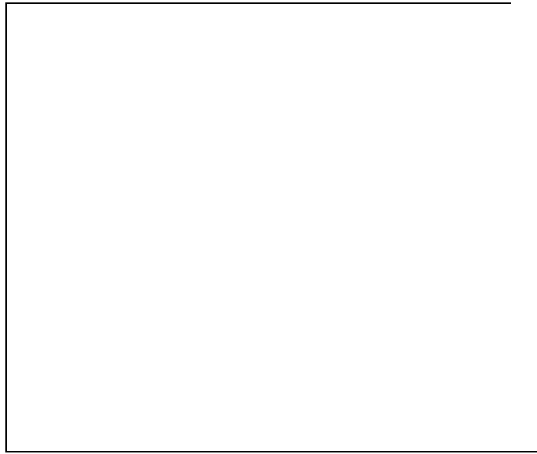


Archbishop Peter Hundt

"We are now beginning a major appraisal process to determine the sale value of the significant real estate properties and buildings of the archdiocese," Hundt said in a statement to parishioners.

"These properties are the first of many that will be listed for sale in the upcoming weeks and months."

ADVERTISEMENT



The anticipated impact on the archdiocese was addressed earlier this year and Hundt reiterated Sunday in his statement that the restructuring will mean significant changes for the archdiocese's building inventory, services and staff.

---

**"These properties are the first of many that will be listed for sale in the upcoming weeks and months." — Archbishop Peter Hundt**

---

"As we go through this restructuring, it is important that we never forget as a Catholic community we are called to provide an environment of compassion to victims who have experienced abuse and to do all we can to bring healing to the victims, their loved ones and the entire community of faith," Hundt said.

St. John's lawyer Geoff Budden, who represents many Mount Cashel victims, said the sale of those particular properties is a start and the archdiocese is carrying through on an appropriate strategy to address its financial obligations to the victims.

---



Geoff Budden — File/Keith Gosse/The Telegram

"We have had good lines of communication with the archdiocese and their lawyers over these past few months. We were aware and have had the opportunity to have input into their marketing strategy," Budden told SaltWire Network shortly after Hundt issued his statement.

His law firm, Budden and Associates, was aware of the specific properties in the initial listing.

According to Heritage NL's website, the monastery is a city-designated heritage building. Mount St. Francis Monastery is a two-and-a-half-storey stone building built in the Gothic Revival style between 1877 and 1880 to house the Irish Christian Brothers.

ADVERTISEMENT





The church has been receiving input from archdiocesan finance and presbyteral councils. Hundt said he's also been meeting with parish pastoral and finance councils, and has been visiting parishes and speaking at weekend masses.

Some 1,900 parishioners also filled out a survey in June.



The archbishop's residence in Outer Cove.

In January, the Supreme Court of Canada refused to hear the church's appeal of a decision by the Newfoundland and Labrador Supreme Court of Appeal siding with victims from the 1940s, '50s and '60s of sexual abuse at the former boys orphanage, run by the Christian Brothers.

The Roman Catholic archdiocese was held vicariously liable; it had claimed the

ADVERTISEMENT

what certain Brothers did. The Newfoundland and Labrador Supreme Court of Appeal had overturned the provincial Supreme Court trial judge who had ruled for the church.

---

## 'We have had good lines of communication with the archdiocese and their lawyers over these past few months.' — *Geoff Budden*

---

The January ruling by the Supreme Court of Canada ended a battle — for former residents who are now elderly men — of more than 20 years led by Budden.

The Mount Cashel sexual abuse scandal is most widely associated with the abuse of boys of a different era — the 1970s and 1980s — the revelation of which prompted the 1989-90 Hughes Inquiry. That era was not part of this civil case, and the boys from earlier decades were not part of compensation from the provincial government when it settled a block of cases from the '70s and '80s more than 20 years ago.

Besides the 60 clients of Budden's firm, the decision could also affect the unresolved cases of about 20 other claimants represented by various other lawyers.

The Christian Brothers were removed from the original lawsuit because the order went bankrupt.

The suit was filed in 1999 by four former orphanage residents (representative of the about 60 former residents whose legal prospects are also directly affected by the case) whose names are protected by a publication ban. One of those John Does has since died.

The ultimate judgment for the four men totalled about \$2 million. By that accounting, the liability for 60 victims might be \$30 million or more.

---

*Barb Sweet is an enterprise reporter for The Telegram.*

*[barbara.sweet@thetelegram.com](mailto:barbara.sweet@thetelegram.com)*

*Twitter: [@BarbSweetTweets](https://twitter.com/BarbSweetTweets)*

---

Share story:

6

ADVERTISEMENT