



Diocese of Edmundston

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A major priority of the Bishops of Canada is the protection and prevention of sexual abuse of children, youth, and vulnerable adults, and promoting healing of persons and communities affected by sexual abuse.

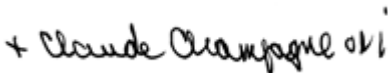
In June 2018, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops published an invaluable resource entitled, "Protecting Minors from Sexual Abuse, *A call to the Catholic Faithful in Canada for Healing, Reconciliation and Transformation.*" A recommendation from this text is the implementation of clearly publicized reporting mechanisms and timely responses to allegations of abuse.


I am pleased to publish the Diocese of Edmundston's "Protocol for Governance in Cases of Allegations of Sexual Abuse Against a Child, Youth, or Vulnerable Adult and Other Types of Sexual Misconduct." The protocol provides the necessary tools to ensure we have a process for reporting and responding to allegations in a timely manner to meet the requirements of canon and secular law. In addition to legislative and canonical legislation, incorporated in this protocol is the Province of New Brunswick's new legislation introduced in June 2022 entitled *Child and Youth Well-Being Act*.

The protocol was reviewed and approved by the diocesan Advisory committee on sexual aggression on June 16, 2023, to which I have signed the Decree of Approval on November 2, 2023. This protocol will be posted on our diocesan website for easy reference.

I am most appreciative to Bishop Serge Poitras, for granting us permission to use the protocol for the Diocese of Timmins, Ontario, published in June 2021 as framework for the development of the protocol for the Diocese of Edmundston.

Fraternally,

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+ Claude Champagne, O.M.I.
Bishop of Edmundston


Sr Ronilla Sirois, R.H.S.J.
Chancellor