

Cumulative report of the Ombudsman of the Montreal Archdiocese

December 1st, 2022

Ombudsman's Fifth Quarterly report

Me Marie Christine Kirouack, *Ad.E.*

Summary:.....	3
Introduction:	4
The Ombudsman’s work	4
Problems with the abuse complaint process - internal processing	5
The letters:.....	5
Decrees of suspension or of inquest:.....	6
Complaints of abuse.....	8
« Ombudsman » complaints forwarded to the Archbishop	8
Duty of confidentiality and loyalty:.....	11
« <i>Ombudsman</i> » complaints to the Advisory Committee.....	13
Age of the victims:	14
The type of abuse:	15
« Ombudsman » complaints: conclusions on the old files	16
Contemporary complaints of abuse.....	16
Part 1. Analysis of complaints received between August 1st and October 1 st 2022:.....	17
The number of complaints:	17
The decades concerned:	17
Age of the victims:	17
Type of abuse:.....	18
Part 2. Cumulative report of the complaints received between May 5th 2021 and October 1 st 2022 :.....	20
Cumulative number of abuse complaints:.....	20
External investigations:.....	20
The persons concerned by the complaints:	21
The decades concerned:	21
Age of the victims:	22
The specificity of sexual abuse:.....	24
The decades concerned:	24
Age of the victims of sexual abuse:	25
Complaints that fall under the responsibility of the Office of Pastoral Personnel (OPP) or the Vicars General:.....	26
Conclusion :	27
Appendix: Letter of resignation of the Honorable Pepita G. Capriolo	28

Summary:

The cumulative report of the Ombudsman of the Archdiocese of Montreal was filed on December 7, 2022.

It points to failures in the treatment of complaints.

With regards to complaints, it analyzes the new complaints received since August 1, 2022, namely:

- 7 complaints of abuse which were sent to the Advisory Committee;
- 12 Ombudsman complaints, three of which were sent to the Advisory Committee and nine to Mgr Lépine directly;
- 20 complaints referred to the Vicars General;
- 8 to the Director of the OPP.

Then, cumulatively, it analyzes the content of all the complaints received since the Ombudsman took office on May 5, 2021, namely a total of 188 complaints, which break down as follows:

- 64 complaints of abuse that were submitted to the Advisory Committee for recommendations to Archbishop Christian Lépine, 41 of which concern sexual abuse;
- 59 complaints to the Vicars General which do not target members of the clergy, but are rather in connection with the holding of cemeteries, funerals, the requirement of a vaccination passport, genealogical research, requests for apostasy or relations of work, and;
- 35 complaints to the Director of the OPP mainly concerning problems between employees and members of the clergy or between the Church Council and a member of the clergy were sent to the Office of Pastoral Personnel (OPP).

In addition, following the filing in the spring of the external audit of the Honourable André Denis, a retired judge, the Ombudsman was given the mandate to deal with any previous complaint or abuse file that had not been satisfactorily dealt with in the past. As part of the implementation of this mandate, the Advisory Committee received 14 complaints,

known as "Ombudsman complaints", all of which concern sexual abuse, and Archbishop Lépine, for his part, received 16.

Cumulative report of the Ombudsman of the Montreal Archdiocese

Introduction:

This report is the fifth since I took office on May 5, 2021. As was the case with the previous ones, this report is public and will be made available to everyone through the Archdiocese's website.

It covers concurrently:

- The period comprised between August 1 and October 1, 2022¹, and;
- cumulatively, the period from May 5, 2021, to October 1, 2022,

which is reflected in the various statistical portraits found there.

That being said, the statistical portrait will not be the important part of this report, but rather the failures of the process, the incomprehensible delays in the processing of certain abuse files and the resignation of the Honourable Pepita Capriolo.

The Ombudsman's work

To understand my work and the comments that follow, I deal with the three types of complaints:

- Complaints of abuse of all nature :
 - o sexual, physical, psychological, financial and spiritual abuse;
- Complaints that fall under the jurisdiction of the Vicars General;
 - o requests for apostasy, difficulties related to cemeteries, problems with volunteers or related to the functioning of the Fabriques... etc.;

¹ For reasons detailed hereinafter.

- Complaints under the jurisdiction of the director of the OPP (Office of Pastoral Personnel):
 - o These complaints mainly concern difficulties between staff and members of the clergy or disagreements between members of the Fabrique Councils and a member of the clergy.

In terms of abuse, I deal, on the one hand, with contemporary complaints, i.e. those arising from people who contact me and wish to file a complaint. These are sent to the Advisory Committee which, after study, makes recommendations to Archbishop Lépine: suspension, external investigation, letter of monition (reprimand)... etc².

On the other hand, in accordance with the mandate given to me by Archbishop Lépine following the filing of the Denis Report last Spring, I am reviewing old files (files that date prior to May 2021). In cases where I find that complaints had no follow-up or that the complaints have not been dealt with adequately, I have the authority to initiate complaints in these files. These are the so-called "*Ombudsman*" complaints. These are of two types, either those referred to the Advisory Committee for analysis and recommendations, or the one that I send directly to the Archbishop for answers to my questions, in terms of sanctions or follow-ups.

Problems with the abuse complaint process - internal processing

If, in my previous report, I mentioned that the complaints system was working better, unfortunately I have to say that this is no longer the case. These important delays worry and destabilize our complainants and call into question their confidence in the complaints system. It is therefore my duty to highlight in this report the mishandling and delays that are accumulating.

Since June 2022, delays have become interminable in some files, particularly those involving "old complaints" creating a real bottleneck.

The letters:

² These will be dealt with under their own subsection further in this document.

In some files, the Advisory Committee recommends that letters be sent either to a religious community for a follow-up on the complaint or to the complainant himself to sympathize with his or her experience. However, delays in some files are difficult to accept:

- a letter was sent three months after the recommendation of the Advisory Committee;
- two letters are still waiting to be sent despite recommendations to do so on the 28th of September 2022;
- another letter is still waiting to be sent since March 2022, the file having been "forgotten" until I relaunch it in June 2022. The letter has still not been sent.

Decrees of suspension or of inquest:

In two files, the suspension recommended May 11 and June 2022 have not yet been decreed.

In another file, the investigation recommended by the Advisory Committee on June 30 2022 is still not under way.

In order to help everyone get organized, in September I set up a table of files still pending with the steps or the measures that must be taken. This table is regularly updated.

Despite this, cases that have been the subject of recommendations by the Advisory Committee are still waiting to be dealt with or for a decision by the Archbishop to be made one way or the other. The problem is more acute when it comes to old files, namely Ombudsman complaints, who seem fraught with canonical confusion over their analysis or when people who have dealt with these files in the past are still in place.

In contrast, other files are dealt with expeditiously and orders are issued within 10 to 15 days and in one file, it was even issued in less than 48 hours. Exchanges with religious communities also took place at relatively short notice. This makes it even more difficult to understand why some files get bogged down.

In addition, on November 16, 2022, the archivist, an employee of the diocese with whom I work closely and whom I absolutely need in my research work in the old files, was threatened with dismissal, in all likelihood for daring to ask for a raise (which had been

promised to him given the overload of work imposed on him following my arrival and especially following the Ombudsman complaints).

He was summoned to a video meeting where, in the presence of the Director of Human Resources, the Moderator of the Curia, as well as the Chancellor, he was read a document which, in summary, indicated to him that, of two things, either he agreed to be laid off at the end of February 2023 with payment of an indemnity or if he refused the offer, His offer to resign was accepted (which he says he did not give) and he would be fired on November 30, 2022 without compensation.

Worse, the document in question stated that he could not disclose the contents of the document to anyone except his spouse or legal counsel. Completely upset by this abusive behaviour, he fell ill. He should return to work, I hope, on December 12. His work is essential to my role as Ombudsman.

On November 26, for a reason that escapes me, following a human resources meeting, a diocesan employee requested that my archivist's computer access be suspended. It is both surprising and destabilizing that a mere employee who has no connection to the complaint-handling process is allowed to make such a request.

In addition, it is strange that the access of an employee merely on sick leave are suspended (the only reason I was given for blocking his access), but it resulted in my own access to fundamental files, including the old files I am dealing with, disappearing. At my request, the situation was subsequently regularized later in the day.

Wanting to be sure that such a thing would not happen again, I wrote to this employee putting the entire hierarchy of the curia in c.c. I took the opportunity to remind everyone that no one had the right to touch my right of access or my files.

Later that same day, the employee sent an email declaring that he would file a complaint against me. I immediately contacted the Moderator of the Curiae to tell him I would not be threatened in my functions.

Obviously, he did not act since, on November 28, this employee filed a complaint against me at the Bar. I knew when I accepted the job of Ombudsman that I would not gain in popularity, but I couldn't fathom being the subject of a complaint to the Bar of Quebec.

Are all these elements unrelated to the fact that, with the help and unwavering support of the archivist, I find more and more files that have not been dealt with satisfactorily in the past³ and even contemporary lists of sexual abusers (of minors or adults) in which it had been decided not to act. To ask the question is probably to answer it.

It is against this backdrop that the Honourable Pepita Capriolo submitted her resignation from the Transition Committee on December 7. You will find as an appendix her letter of resignation. I would like to acknowledge the extraordinary work she has done and underline the wisdom of the 31 recommendations in her report. I will miss her unwavering support of my work as Ombudsman and the energy she put into instituting and even forcing change.

Complaints of abuse

« Ombudsman » complaints forwarded to the Archbishop

All the foregoing considerations having been made, let us now look at the content of the complaints I have dealt with.

To date, sixteen (16) « Ombudsman » complaints were forwarded to Mgr. Lépine, The complaints concern either:

- files of priests convicted criminally for sexual abuse of minors or files of priests who admitted during the canonical preliminary investigation to having performed acts of a sexual nature on minors. These files must normally be immediately sent to the CDF (Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome) for file opening and possible subsequent secularization (4 files). In one of these cases, the former Archbishop lied to the CDF, assuring them that "the civil and judicial authorities have not brought charges following the allegations" while the priest had been

³ See further in the present document under : « Ombudsman » complaints forwarded to the Archbishop, p.9 and « *Ombudsman* » complaints to the Advisory Committee, p.14.

arrested a few months earlier and accused of sexual abuse of a minor for which he was found guilty subsequently;

- files of sexual assault or sexual abuse of adults by priests (3 files);
- files where I want confirmation that the priests have been secularized, the documents being missing (2 files);
- files necessitating canonical clarification or additional information (3 files);
- one file of psychological abuse by a person already covered in a previous category (1 file);
- breaches of the complaints process put in place in May 2021 (2 files);
- a breach of the duty of confidentiality and loyalty in the handling of complaints by the Advisory Committee, which I will deal specifically with later (1 file).

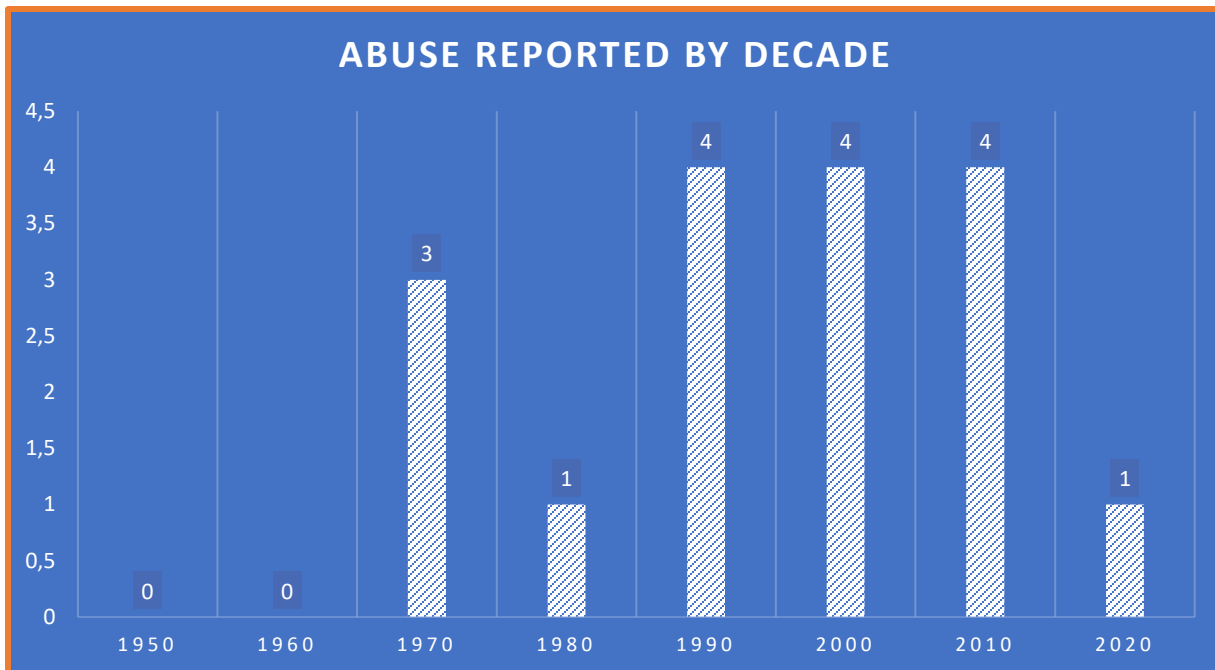
For a total of fourteen (14) persons under complaints.

Of all the files mentioned above, save and except from one of these files which was dealt with quickly, I am still waiting for answers or for action to be taken in the others. These were filed between June 15 and October 6, 2022, specifically:

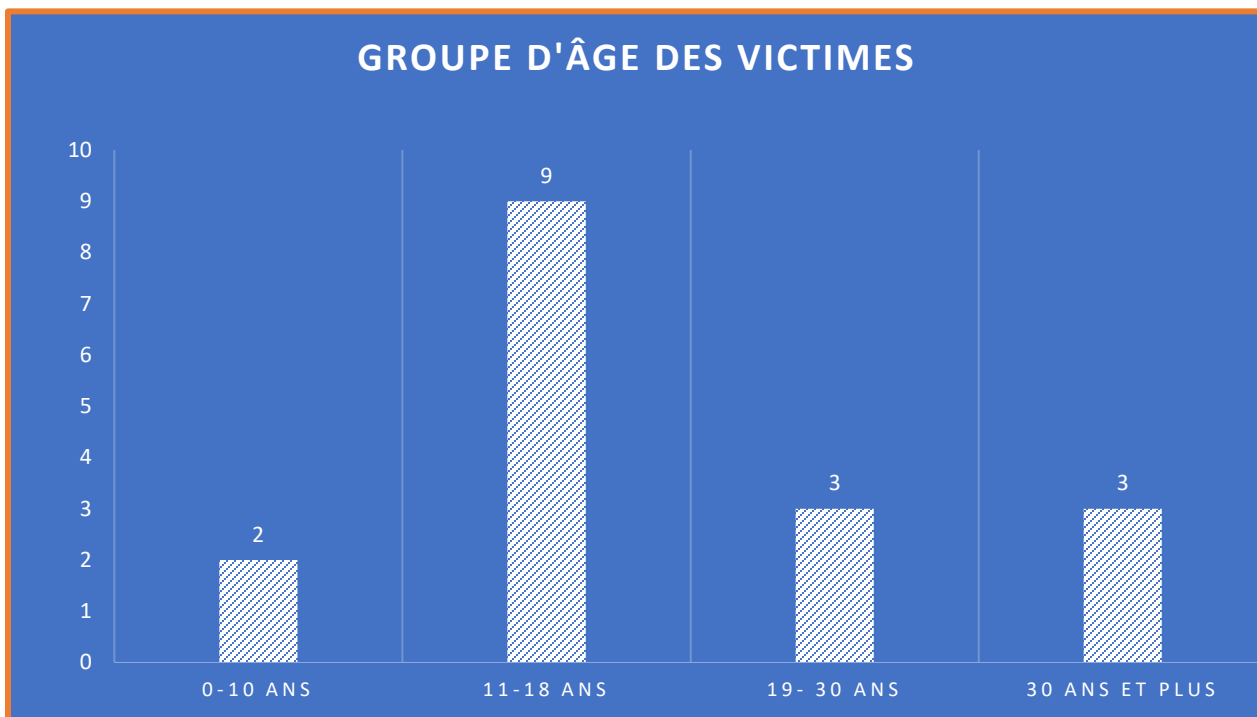
- June 2022 : 2 files;
- July 2022 : 4 files;
- August 2022 : 1 file;
- September 2022 : 5 files;
- October 2022 : 3 files.

Another file of a similar nature was analyzed by the Advisory Committee on May 4, 2022. This file must also be sent to the CDF. On May 13, 2022, Archbishop Lépine withdrew all of the faculties of the person concerned and signed the decree so that the file could be prepared and sent to the CDF. Six months later, the Chancellery has still not sent it. In fact, to date, the Chancellery has still not sent any file to the CDF.

The cases involving sexual abuse (9 cases) have mostly taken place since the 90s and have made at least seventeen (17) victims according to what I found in the files.



Eleven of the victims were minors whereas 6 were adults as shown by the following table:



Duty of confidentiality and loyalty:

Added to this is the case I dealt with earlier, which concerns **serious** breaches of the duty of confidentiality and loyalty in the handling of complaints by the Advisory Committee.

Following recommendations no.25 and foll. of the Capriolo Report⁴, all files are being digitized, thus allowing the constitution of a single file per person⁵ working within the archdiocese and a common file for all complaints⁶. This summer, “my” archivist was given the mandate by Archbishop Lépine to search for any document or email that has not been filed in a complaint file and to put them there.

It was as a result of this research that I was informed at the end of August that someone was leaking emails related to the complaint process. After an in-depth study of the documents and the drafting of a 55-page appendix, on August 25, 2022, I filed a very detailed complaint, namely *Ombudsman vs. Name Withheld PCL-2022-0008*.

In short, I exposed that an Episcopal Vicar was relaying emails in blind copy to a person external to the Archdiocese in disregard of the confidentiality of the complaint process and in doing so revealed:

- the names of complainants;
- the names of persons who are the subject of complaints;
- exchanges with the external investigation firm Quintet;
- and even some of my emails as Ombudsman regarding complaints of abuse.

⁴ The Capriolo Report is available on-line :
<https://diocesemontreal.org/sites/default/files/ressources/actualites/communiqués/2020/11/independent-report-complaints-against-former-priest-brian-boucher.pdf>

⁵ Recommendation no.26 : That a single complete paper file be kept in the Chancery for each individual member of the clergy and that this file be immediately accessible to all those with a supervisory role vis-à-vis the priest in question. Recommendation no.27 : That the single complete file contain a reference to any document that must be kept in the Secret Archives.

⁶ Recommendation no.12 : That all complaints be noted, followed up and filed in one common register for the Archdiocese.

On August 26, 2022, at my request, an emergency meeting was held on this complaint where the overwhelming documentary evidence was analyzed. I highlighted the potential deleterious impact on the complainants to whom we have always promised the confidentiality of the process, as well as the possibility that one of them could be pressured to withdraw his complaint if his identity was known. A decision was supposed to be made shortly thereafter.

On September 8, 2022, I learned from a person who contacted me to file a complaint that this Episcopal Vicar had not only failed to notify me of the existence of a complaint, but had stated that he would deal with it himself in violation of the Complaint Handling Protocol, thus clearly contravening section 3 of the *Archdiocese of Montreal Disciplinary Process Policy to Eradicate Abuse*:

3. Failures

The failures subject to this policy are the:

- 1) Failure to report to the Ombudsman an abuse that the person concerned witnesses or seriously suspects.**
- 2) Failure to report to the Director of Youth Protection (DPJ) abuse or a serious risk of sexual or physical abuse of a minor.*
- 3) Failure to refer a complaint of abuse received by the person concerned to the Ombudsman.**

I immediately filed a new complaint against him.

At the same time, I referred the complaint that had just been filed to the Advisory Committee. The facts of this complaint and particularly the past history of the subject of the complaint that was discovered by the Advisory Committee following the work of the archivist had the consequence that on September 14, 2022, the Committee recommended the immediate suspension of the priest concerned, which was done the same day Archbishop Lépine's decree was signed, namely September 22, 2002. The Advisory Committee also called for an investigation into the internal process, an inquest of **who knew what** at the time this file was dealt with in the past.

On September 27, I sent an email to all stakeholders stating that the situation is urgent and that I am still waiting for a decision regarding that person.

On September 28, 2022, having received no response from anyone and considering that as Ombudsman, my first duty is to protect complainants, I informed Archbishop Lépine that:

"In order to protect complainants in our abuse files, I will not send their complaints to the Advisory Committee until the situation has been regularized."

On October 3, another complainant contacted me and informed me that the same Episcopal Vicar had told her NOT to contact me to file a complaint in a major psychological abuse file as he would take care of it personally.

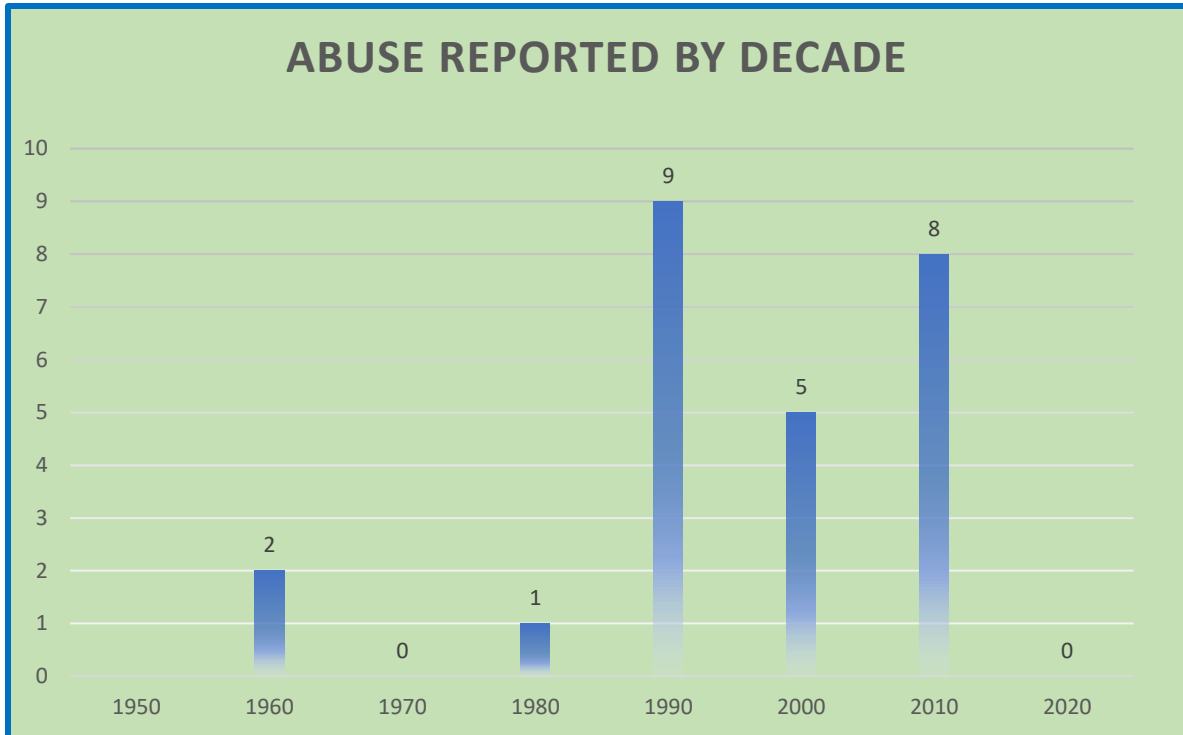
The same day, I file a third complaint.

On October 20, 2022, I send a detailed memo to the Advisory Committee explaining why they would no longer receive contemporary complaints, until further notice.

On November 22, 2022, this person was finally relieved of his duties as Episcopal Vicar, almost three months after my original complaint. Another delay that is difficult to understand.

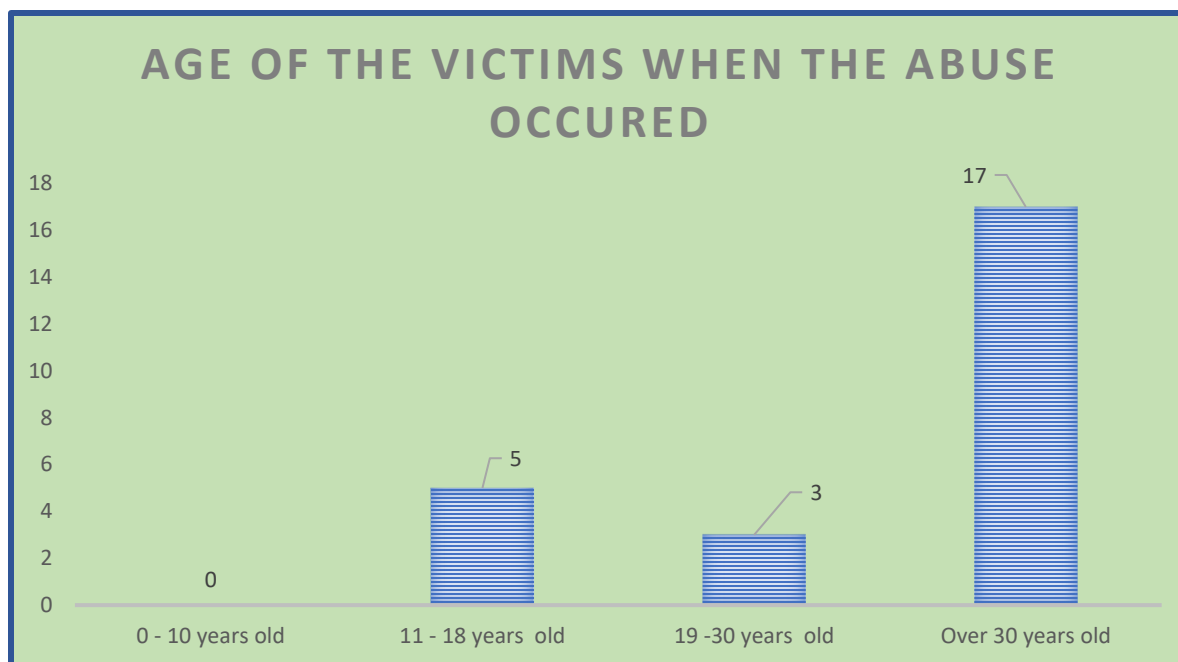
« Ombudsman » complaints to the Advisory Committee

For the purposes of this report, to date, I have sent 14 complaints to the Advisory Committee arising from my review of past files. These "Ombudsman" complaints target 14 members of the clergy who, according to what I have found on file, have caused at least 25 victims from the seventies to date, 5 of whom were minors.



Age of the victims:

The victims are mostly adults (20 out of 25):



The type of abuse:

All of these cases involve acts of a sexual nature: from harassment to sexual abuse and sexual assault.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the members of the Advisory Committee for the tremendous work they have done given the large number of *Ombudsman complaints* I have sent to them which added to their work.

At the request of the Advisory Committee, in two of these files, I found four victims who, although surprised to hear from me, said they were pleased by my reaching out to them. One of these cases involves three victims of sexual harassment who were offered psychological care. A fine example of efficiency, the decree withdrawing the faculties of the person concerned was signed on October 7, 48 hours after the recommendations of the Advisory Committee to Archbishop Lépine.

In the other file, another case of sexual harassment, an investigation was recommended by the Advisory Committee, and on July 1, 2022, during my conversation with her, the victim was quick to agree to cooperate in the upcoming investigation. However, if on June 30, 2022, the Advisory Committee recommended both an external investigation, and the suspension of the person concerned, we are still waiting for the decrees. In order to avoid

any misunderstanding, yes the priest in question is still in office at the time of tabling this report and no investigation has yet been ordered, almost five (5) months later.

« Ombudsman » complaints: conclusions on the old files

In short, since the Spring, I have filed 27 complaints⁷ stemming from my review of old files that concern abuses.

Contemporary complaints of abuse

This section analyzes contemporary complaints, that is, complaints that are filed at the request of someone who contacts me and that are sent to the Advisory Committee for analysis and recommendations.

It comprised of two parts:

- Part 1: namely the section analyzing the content of complaints received between August 1 and October 1, 2022, a total of 7 complaints and:
- Part 2: the section cumulatively analyzing all complaints received since I took office (between May 5, 2021 and October 1, 2022), i.e. 66 complaints.

These files comprise complaints for:

- psychological abuse, including abuse of power and misogyny;
- financial abuse;
- physical abuse;
- sexual abuse;
- spiritual abuse.

In the case of sexual abuse, we find complaints concerning exhibitionism, pornography, unwanted sexual advances or proposals, sexual harassment, group masturbation, forced fellatio, masturbation, male tribadism, vaginal penetration and sodomy.

⁷ Three of the complaints sent to the Archbishop concern breaches of the complaints protocol. They are therefore not included in this total.

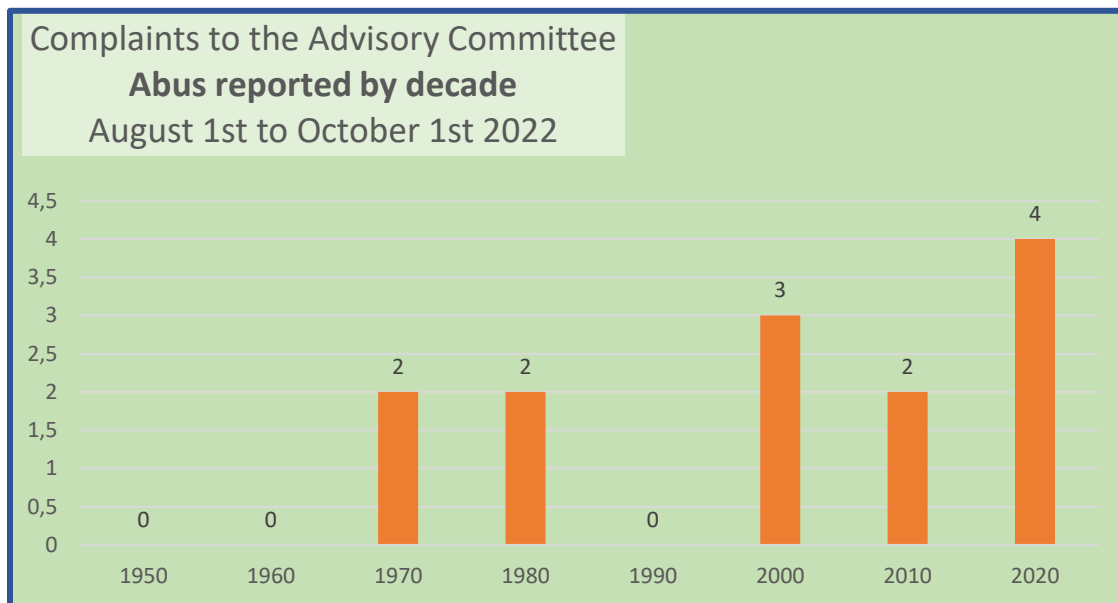
Part 1. Analysis of complaints received between August 1st and October 1st 2022:

The number of complaints:

Between August 1 and October 1, 2022, I received 7 reports of abuse, all of which resulted in formal complaints sent to the Advisory Committee. The other complaints subsequently received were not sent for the reasons mentioned above and will be included in my next report.

The decades concerned:

The abuses denounced took place in the following decades⁸:

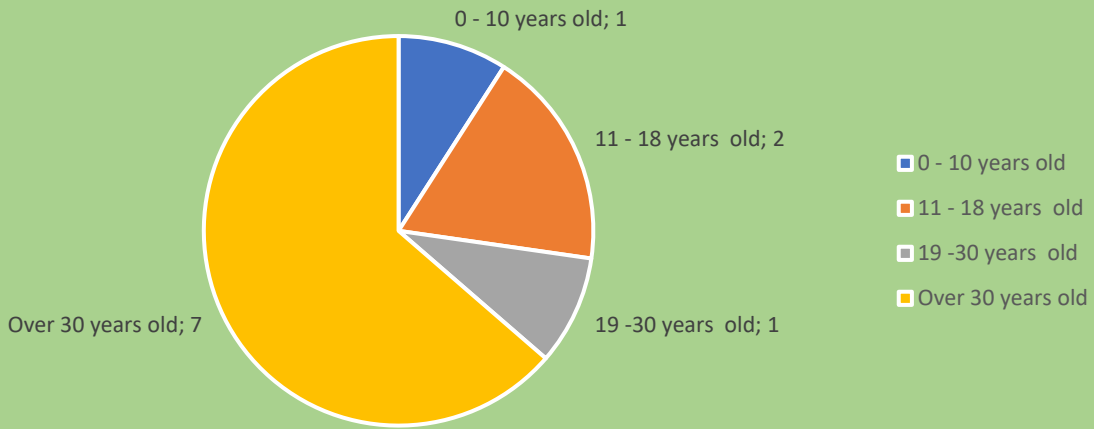


Age of the victims:

The majority of victims at the time of the abuse were over 30 years old.

⁸ Some files have more than one victim, so the 7 complaints files concern at least 11 victims. Two of the cases span two decades.

Complaints to the Advisory Committee
Age of the victims when the abuse occurred
August 1st to October 1st 2022



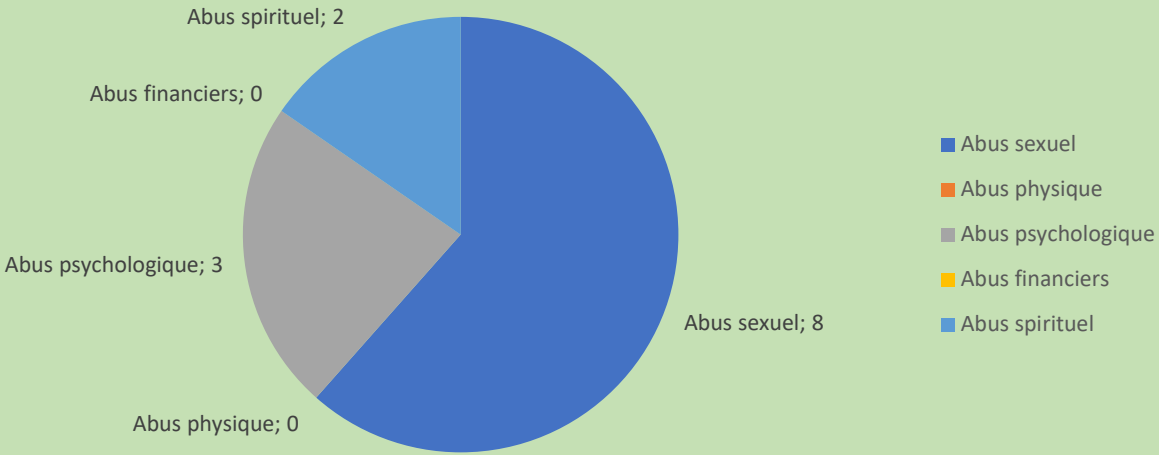
Type of abuse:

As with regards to the type of abuse, here are the details

Complaints to the Advisory Committee

Complaints by type of abuse:

August 1st - October 1st 2022



Part 2. Cumulative report of the complaints received between May 5th 2021 and October 1st 2022 :

Cumulative number of abuse complaints:

To date, the Advisory Committee has received 64 formal complaints of abuse. As of November 16, 2022, of those that have been processed, 5 complaints have been dismissed and 4 closed for lack of information⁹. One complaint was also withdrawn by the complainant prior to its consideration by the Committee. In addition to the 64 formal complaints submitted to the Advisory Committee, there were 14 "*Ombudsman complaints*", i.e. the 14 cases mentioned above that I sent to them in my capacity as Ombudsman, bringing the number of complaints dealt with or to be dealt with by the Committee to 78.

The cumulative statistical data in this section does **not** include the "Ombudsman complaints" and therefore refers only to complaints received from individuals as part of the Ombudsman's complaint process.

External investigations:

In twelve of the complaints, investigations were recommended by the Advisory Committee.

Of these investigations, seven final reports have been filed to date. Of this number:

- Three reports concern abuse of a sexual nature. The reports conclude that the alleged acts were committed. These acts were committed against four people.
- A report concerns psychological and financial abuse. The report concludes that the priest targeted by the complaint committed psychological abuse towards five (5) people and financial abuse towards one of them.
- A report concerns psychological abuse and concludes that the priest targeted by the complaint committed such abuse against two people.

⁹ Those complaints could be reopened if other information surfaced.

- A report concludes that inappropriate acts of a sexual nature were committed against two people.
- Finally, one report concerns an allegation of sexual harassment. The report concludes that without reaching the level of abuse, it is an inappropriate gesture on the part of the person concerned.

A file concerns both an external investigation and a canonical investigation. We are awaiting the conclusions of the canonical preliminary investigation. As soon as these have been filed, the Quintet firm will itself issue its own conclusions.

In addition, the Advisory Committee recommended in September and October that investigations be held on the internal process that took place in two files, in order to obtain explanations from some persons as to their past interventions in these files, or rather their lack of appropriate interventions. The decrees appointing the investigator were signed on October 7 and 27, 2022. These files concern an “Ombudsman” complaint¹⁰ and a contemporary complaint. Both of these surveys are being conducted by someone outside the Archdiocese.

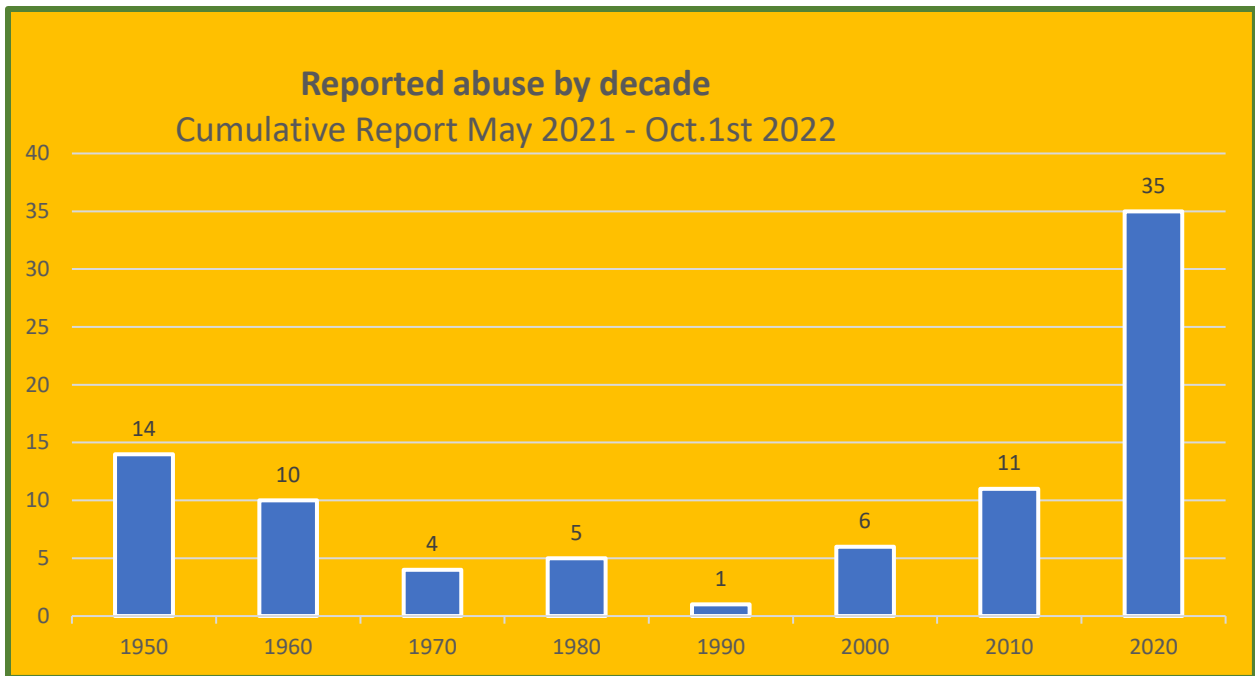
The persons concerned by the complaints:

Of the 69 people targeted by complaints of abuse submitted to the Advisory Committee, 65 were religious, namely 37 members of religious communities and 28 members of the clergy and 4 lay employees of religious communities.

The decades concerned:

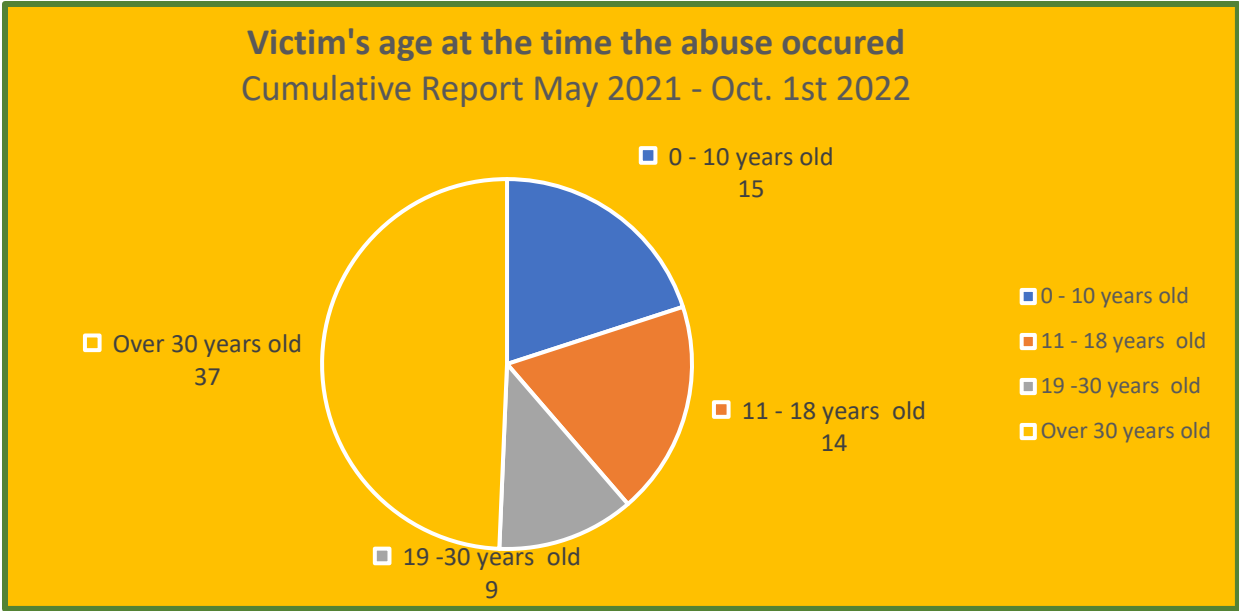
The complaints relate to events that took place from the 1950s to the present day and some complaints relate to abuses that span more than a decade, particularly in the case of the Duplessis orphans.

¹⁰ That file was already described earlier.



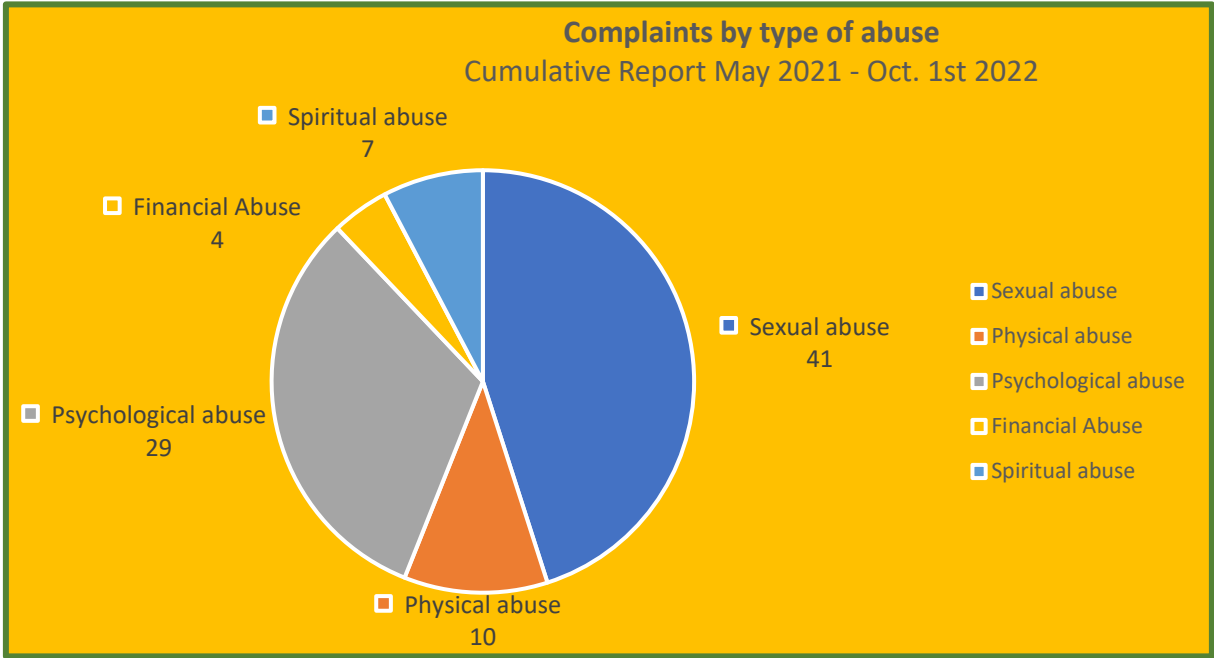
Age of the victims:

The age of the victims at the time of the abuse ranged from elementary school-aged children to adults over 80 years old. It should be noted that in cases of repeated abuse, victims may fall into more than one age category.



The type of abuse:

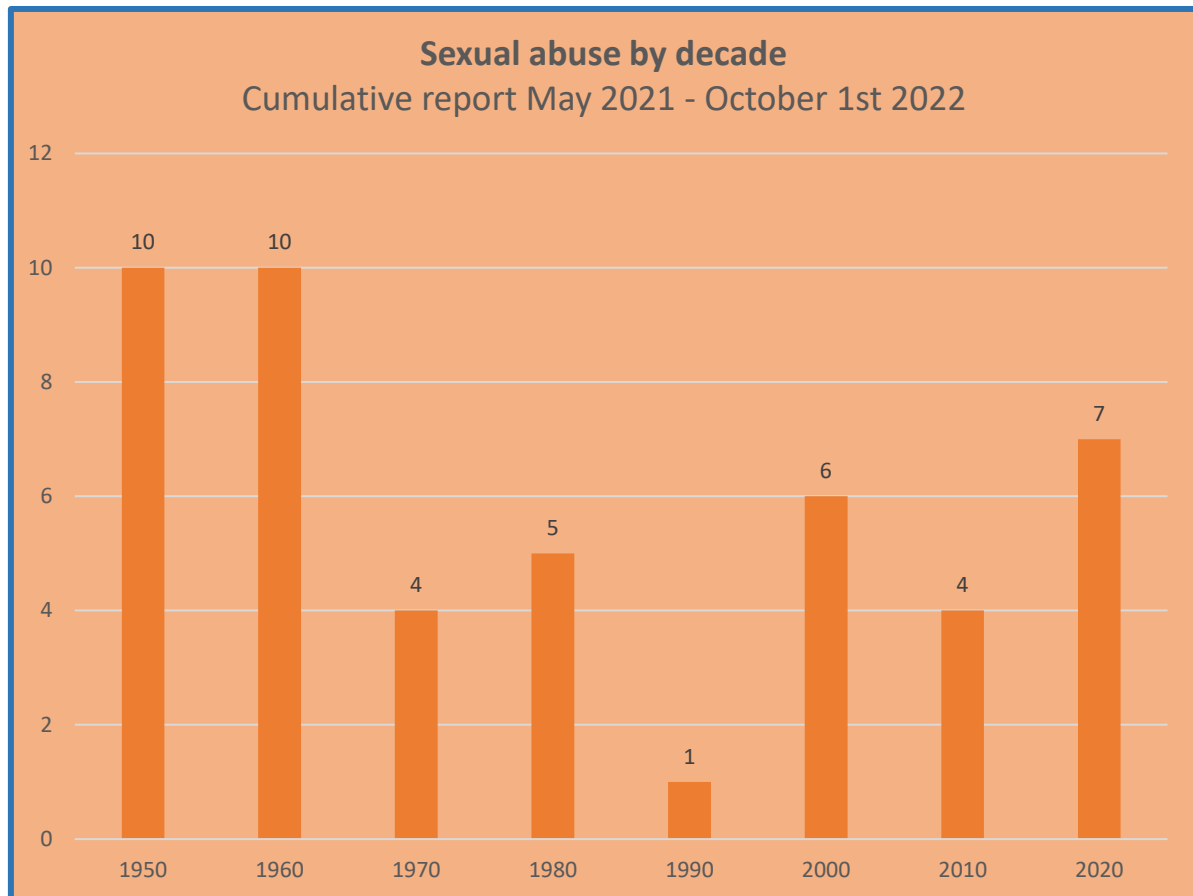
The type of abuse covered by the complaints (note that a complaint may include more than one type of abuse).



In the case of sexual abuse (41 cases out of 91 cases of abuse or 45.1% of all complaints received), 48.5% of victims were victims of abuse repeatedly. In the case of physical abuse (10 cases or 11% of the complaints received), 80% of complainants have suffered repeated acts of violence.

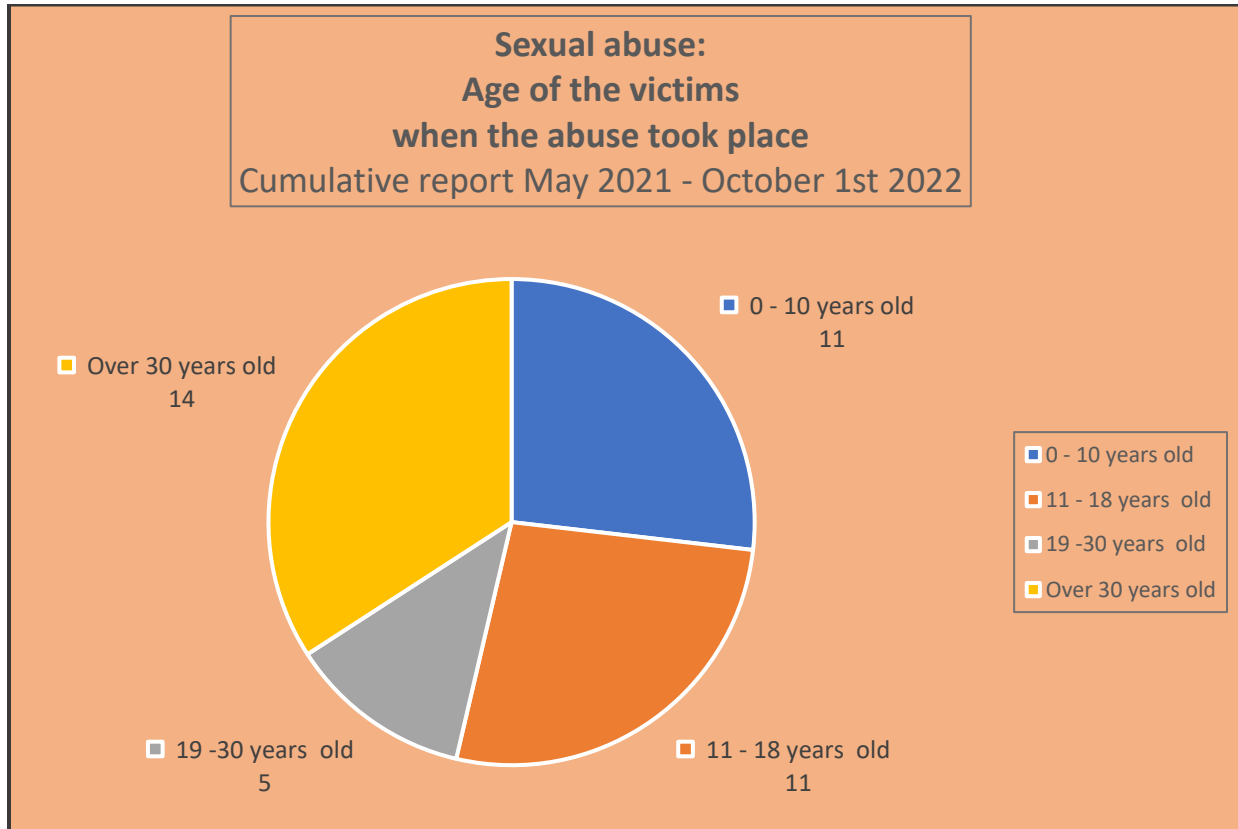
The specificity of sexual abuse:

The decades concerned:



Age of the victims of sexual abuse:

As to the victims, their age ranges as follows:



It should be noted that the average median age of victims at the time the sexual abuse took place is increasing. This trend, noted in my previous report, continues to be apparent. It is necessary to make a link here with the decades concerned, which are also more contemporaneous.

Date of reports :	Minors	Majors
December 2021	66,7%	33,3%
March 2022	67,8%	32,3%
July 2022	55,9%	44,1%
November 2022	54%	46%

In cumulative percentages, the age groups of victims of sexual abuse in complaints referred to the Advisory Committee to date are as follows:

- ten years and under in 27% of cases;
- from 11 to 18 years in 27% of cases;
- 19 to 30 years in 12% of cases;
- over 30 years: 34%.

One constant, however, remains. The abuse, whether sexual, physical or psychological, perpetrated during the fifties and sixties was mainly perpetrated by members of religious communities.

Complaints that fall under the responsibility of the Office of Pastoral Personnel (OPP) or the Vicars General:

The focus of this report is not on the work of the Director of the OPP or the Vicars General and the analysis of the complaints sent to them will be included in my next report.

Conclusion :

Is the complaint process going through a difficult time? Definitely. Do I question the Archbishop's good faith? No, but do I think he lacks strength in enforcing the rules? Yes. And is he badly advised? Possibly.

Do I think my work bothers some members of the old guard? Definitely, especially those who, knowingly, decided not to act in the past in what has since become Ombudsman complaints and who are still in office. But I also think that many people are delighted with my arrival and collaborate so that once and for all, we clean house and start afresh. Since this summer, several complainants reported to me that it was a priest who told them to contact me.

Moreover, when the system works, it yields remarkable results both in preventing such situations from happening again, and in helping to heal those who have fallen victim to clergy abuses.

I would like to thank the complainants who have expressed their satisfaction with the handling of their files. I also think of the man who finally had the courage to talk to his children about what he had experienced as sexual abuse after confiding in me and filing his complaint. That's what drives me to the weeks when the Ombudsman's job can be difficult. It's also what makes me push for decisions to be made and results to come and I will definitely continue to push.

Once again, I assure in advance all those who wish to contact me of my empathy and understanding of what they have experienced or are still experiencing and of my unwavering support through the complaint process.

Me Marie Christine Kirouack, *Ad.E.*

Ombudsman for the Archdiocese of Montréal

Appendix: Letter of resignation of the Honorable Pepita G. Capriolo

Le 7 décembre 2022.

Chers amis,

Mon travail auprès de l'Église catholique à Montréal prend fin.

J'avais commencé mon mandat de co-présidente du MEO avec un réel enthousiasme et l'espoir de réaliser des changements importants qui feraient de l'Église catholique à Montréal un exemple de transparence et de prise de responsabilité face aux victimes d'abus.

Les protocoles, les règlements, les procédures et les politiques nécessaires ont été rédigés et approuvés. La formation obligatoire de tout le personnel a été soigneusement préparée. Le tout s'annonçait comme un succès, mais il apparaît désormais qu'il y ait un trop grand pas à franchir entre l'écrit et l'application de celui-ci.

Les nombreuses difficultés soulignées dans les derniers rapports de l'Ombudsman démontrent que, malgré les efforts de plusieurs intervenants de bonne foi, de graves problèmes subsistent dans la mise en œuvre des recommandations du Rapport Capriolo et dans l'application des règlements, des politiques et des procédures approuvés par l'archevêque.

Je n'ai qu'à mentionner le délai inexcusable dans le renvoi de A.B. (*Anonymisé*) de son poste de vicaire épiscopal, alors que l'archevêque et les deux vicaires généraux avaient été mis au courant de fautes graves et de bris de confidentialité presque trois mois plus tôt. Pendant ce temps, le Comité consultatif ne pouvait, de ce fait, recevoir de nouvelles plaintes de la part de l'Ombudsman afin d'éviter d'autres bris de confidentialité.

L'absence de coordination d'efforts nécessaires pour s'assurer de la présence du personnel visé pour la phase 2 du programme VVA (Virage Victimes d'Abus) a fait en sorte que ce programme, d'une grande valeur pédagogique et ayant nécessité le travail de professionnels et de bénévoles dévoués, n'a été suivi que par environ un tiers de ceux qui devaient y assister. Rappelons qu'il s'agit d'une formation *obligatoire*.

En outre, j'ai été révoltée par le traitement inadmissible dont a fait l'objet C.D. (*Anonymisé*)¹¹

Une goutte a fait déborder le vase pourtant profond de ma compréhension envers les situations que je sais être complexes : c'est le fait que l'Ombudsman ait fait l'objet d'une plainte au Syndic du Barreau du Québec par un employé de l'archidiocèse, E.F.

¹¹ An employee of the Archdiocese.

(Anonymisé), à la suite d'un courriel de l'Ombudsman s'objectant à ce que l'on la prive de l'accès à ses dossiers se trouvant dans la plate-forme documentaire sécurisée entre le diocèse et l'Ombudsman.

C'est avec une vraie tristesse et un réel sentiment de déception, que je me dois de quitter mon rôle au Comité de transition. Vous comprendrez que ma confiance a été entamée par l'ensemble de ces dysfonctionnements qui ont perduré malgré mes nombreuses interventions, orales et écrites. Je ne peux continuer de participer à une instance qui est soumise à des pressions contradictoires venant peut-être de personnes et d'instances qui ne sont pas présentes lors de nos discussions et qui ne semblent pas partager la même vision d'une Église ouverte, transparente et soucieuse du bien-être des personnes les plus fragiles.

Meilleures salutations,

Pepita G. Capriolo

- Ces noms devront être anonymisés dans toute publication de cette lettre.