



Archbishop of Montreal

April 1, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In November 2020, on behalf of our diocesan family, I committed to implementing the 31 recommendations of the Capriolo Report to affect a shift so as to focus on victims and eradicate all forms of abuse within our Catholic Church in Montreal. Achieving this goal requires a transformation based on responsibility, accountability, transparency, training, securing our documents and archives, and supporting victims and survivors.

The Recommendation Implementation Committee's work began in January 2021, and in early May we announced the appointment of an Ombudsman and the implementation of a comprehensive complaint handling process for all forms of abuse.

The Ombudsman's first quarterly reports have shown us that abuse is not only a past event involving retired or deceased priests. Unfortunately, various forms of abuse still occur in our Church environments today. These abuses are committed by a minority, but their impact on victims and communities is enormous; we need everyone's commitment to eradicate all abuse.

Each complaint of abuse is submitted to the Advisory Committee, which may recommend to the Archbishop the temporary removal of the person concerned from office and the holding of an investigation, which is then carried out by a specialized external firm. A few priests are currently under investigation and have been temporarily removed from their duties. Listening to the victims, other witnesses, and the individual in question allows the search for the truth. The investigation report is presented to the Advisory Committee, which then submits its recommendations to the Archbishop as to the measures to be taken to put an end to the abuse. The Archbishop makes decisions quickly and assigns representatives to implement them diligently. For more information, visit the [diocesan website](#).

I invite you to share this message to mobilize the whole community to speak out. We've released an awareness-raising video and developed a compulsory training program entitled *Focus on the Victims of Abuse*. This training, first offered to the pastoral workers of our Church, began on January 25, and will continue until June 18. It will be repeated in the fall for a wider audience.

This ecclesial change we have embarked upon together is demanding, but it is also indispensable for restoring trust in the Church, within our communities and in society. I extend my thanks to all of you for your collaboration, commitment to the Church, and sense of co-responsibility and solidarity in this process, which is sure to bear abundant fruit.

Sincerely, in Our Suffering and Risen Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christian Lépine".

† Christian Lépine