

Diocesan Risk Management Program Launched

The Archdiocese of Moncton has undertaken a vast risk management program involving staff, volunteers as well as diocesan and parish buildings.

« The Church of Moncton seeks to offer a safe environment to those persons who take part in parish or diocesan activities,» said Bishop André Richard, c.s.c.

The program, set up in response to the requirements of its insurer, Ecclesiastical Insurance, deals with the security of children, of vulnerable persons, clergy, staff and volunteers as well as buildings and land belonging to the diocese and/or parishes. Formation sessions will be offered during the implementation period of the program.

The risk management program includes a two level screening process. The first level involves all staff and volunteers occupying a function at the parish and/or diocesan level—that is, clergy, religious and lay persons. These will be required to submit to a criminal record check.

The second level involves all those employees and volunteers whose function puts them in an elevated risk situation. These persons will be submitted to a second screening to determine if they have a criminal conviction record for a physical or sexual offense. Persons working in an elevated risk situation are called to exercise their function with children or vulnerable persons. These are, for example, catechists, youth ministry and sacramental preparation facilitators as well as clergy.

The program also involves undertaking the inspection of buildings and grounds to determine if they respect the security codes for the prevention of fires and for their users.

The aim of the risk management project is to reduce all risks and set in place strategies to avoid them.