

REPORT OF THE BISHOP'S TASK FORCE FOR A SAFE CHURCH, VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT AND SCREENING

As a community of faith, the Anglican Diocese of Niagara is committed to the promotion of an atmosphere free of exploitation, intimidation, harassment, misconduct or interpersonal violence.

It is the task of this team to share resources that embody “best practice resources” to create an atmosphere in which members, volunteers, staff, community partners and others who use our buildings can work and worship together free from fear of emotional, physical, or sexual abuse, exploitation, bullying or harassment.

In the past year, a few highlights of our ministry have been:

- Creation of a draft resource concerning bullying and harassment;
- Providing two workshops for diocesan clergy, licensed lay workers and employees at Cathedral Place;
- Conduct of a workshop in one region of the Diocese on Safe Church and volunteer work;
- Initiating the diocesan wide audit for Volunteer Screening and Management also known as “Screening in Faith”, including holding three workshops for Parish Volunteer Screening and Management Volunteers in different parts of the Diocese;
- Intervened, upon request, in four situations where abuse was alleged;
- Mentored in several parishes where a situation was reported to be unsafe; and
- Have continued to work proactively at the creation of church as a place of justice, safety and security.

Over the past 20 years, the responsibilities of this task force have moved from the most basic kinds of education around different modes of abuse and are currently morphing into a comprehensive, more prophetic, restorative justice based ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

Marni Nancekivell
Director of Safe Church, Volunteer Management and Screening