



The Office of the Metropolitan of Ontario The Anglican Church of Canada

The Most Reverend Anne Germond
Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario

Monday June 7th, 2021

Dear friends in Christ,

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all in this green and growing season of Pentecost.

Early in the pandemic I had the privilege of meeting Laura Tamblyn Watts, president and chief executive of CanAge, a national seniors' advocacy group and a teacher of law and aging at the University of Toronto. While our conversation centred on the dire impact of COVID-19 on seniors in residential care, Laura Tamblyn Watts is of the opinion that many of the issues that arose are long standing ones and that there is a 'crisis of care' in our senior population due to chronic underfunding, lack of staffing and resources and an institutional, outmoded delivery system. Laura Tamblyn Watts asked if the Anglican Church could do its part to support and advocate for vulnerable seniors, especially with the high representation of that demographic in our churches.

The result at my request was the formation of the Provincial Elder Care Working Group, chaired by Provincial Prolocutor Laura Walton, and with members from most dioceses within the ecclesiastical province. The other members are The Rev. Canon Grace Delaney (Moosonee), Connie Elkin (Algoma), David Embury (Huron), Liz Hamel (Algoma), The Very Rev. Valerie Isaac (Moosonee), Michael Perkin (Ottawa) and The Venerable Roberta Wilson Garrett (Algoma).

This group has been meeting regularly over the last several months to look at the issues that our senior population are facing and to consider ways in which the church may advocate on behalf of vulnerable seniors. They have a vision for the way in which they would like their work to unfold but are in need of your input.

I commend the efforts of the Provincial Elder Care Working Group and ask you to respond to the request which is laid out in the letter posted on the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario website.

"He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak." (Isaiah 40.29).

I remain yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Anne Germond
Metropolitan of Ontario & Archbishop of Algoma and Moosonee