



## The Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario

### The Anglican Church of Canada

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

June 7, 2021

To the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario family,

As we make our way into the second year of the pandemic, we as a church have become keenly aware of the struggles many of our vulnerable elders are experiencing. While we as Christians should always advocate and protect any who are at-risk, we are now confronted with abuse of those in our older demographic. We are seeing countless issues in Ontario's long-term care facilities and the personal homes of the elderly. We are keenly aware of physical and mental abuse, lack of care, abandonment, and isolation that many seniors are experiencing.

Our Elder Care Working Group has come together at the request of Archbishop Anne Germond and are drawn from the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario. We have been asked by the Archbishop to address the crisis of elder abuse and formulate a plan that not only advocates for our elders but offers seniors, their families, and our parishes tools of support. We are not trained specifically in this area, however, we bring a variety of gifts and a broad range of knowledge to the table. We are seniors, children of seniors, and those who work with our elders with a burning desire to affect change. We have a vision, but we are also aware that it will take many voices in order to be heard and so we are asking that you lend your voices to ours, in the hope of meeting not just the perceived needs of seniors but real needs. We know that there are some resources already available, but we feel we can do more, much more!

We are reaching out through various channels to find out what is needed at all levels of senior care. We want to hear what we can offer as a team that will aid in the care and advocacy of seniors. We need to understand how we can use our group's advocacy skills and support to work with seniors and parishes who require our help. We want input from as many as possible.

This is a crisis of neglect and abuse brought to light by COVID-19, but it will not end with this pandemic. So please don't add this to your **"I'll get to it later pile."** We are respectfully asking for your collective support as we gather feedback from bishops, clergy, lay people, and seniors to discern what is needed. How do you think we can best support vulnerable seniors in this time of pandemic and beyond? In order to meet urgent timelines, we are asking that you would provide us with your feedback by June 30<sup>th</sup> so we can deal with this important matter in a timely fashion.

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Please contact us and let us hear your voice, raise your concerns, and share your ideas. We are open to listening and learning so we can best serve and support our seniors who are at risk, but we can't do that without your help. We want/need to hear your voice to help us care for the most vulnerable in our communities.

We can be reached at [ontarioeldercare@gmail.com](mailto:ontarioeldercare@gmail.com) or by regular mail at:

Eldercare Working Group  
c/o The Diocese of Algoma  
619 Wellington St E,  
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 2M6

This is important work and we need your help to make sure we do our best to address the issue for some of our most vulnerable. Please let us hear your thoughts.

***Do not cast me off in the time of old age; do not forsake me when my strength is spent.***

**Psalm 71:9**

Grace and blessings,



Laura Walton, ODT - Chair - Diocese of Toronto  
Prolocutor for the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario

On behalf of:

Canon Grace Delaney – Diocese of Moosonee

Connie Elkin – Diocese of Algoma

David Embury – Diocese of Huron

Liz Hamel – Diocese of Algoma

The Very Reverend Valerie Isaac – Diocese of Moosonee

Michael Perkin – Diocese of Ottawa

The Venerable Roberta Wilson-Garrett – Diocese of Algoma