

Our Mission – Our Policy

Since the earliest days of the church, we have come together to worship and live out our faith. We continue in that tradition today. As a people of faith we reach out to those in need. We counsel, we help, we teach. Each of us brings unique gifts to share.

At the core of this spiritual helping is a **sacred trust** which must be protected and never misused.

We desire that our Church be a clear symbol of the Kingdom of God – a safe and holy place for all whom our ministry touches.

Therefore it is the policy of the Diocese of Edmonton that all, including clergy, staff and volunteers, who come into contact with vulnerable people, be screened in a manner appropriate to the ministry or job being undertaken.

Screening in Faith

We are a community within which love, justice, truth, peace and self-discipline are nurtured and valued. It is sad that this has not always happened. Some men, women and children have been hurt by people that they should have been able to trust, and in places where they should have been safe.

We must do everything we can to protect the children and other vulnerable people in our care. This is an essential element of our call to service.

Our Church has a commitment to screening both our paid staff and volunteers. Screening is designed to protect:

- children,
- the frail elderly
- the physically disabled,
- the mentally vulnerable,
- our dedicated volunteers.
- Our staff

Diocesan Screening Initiative

The overall aim for this policy is to ensure that there is a safe environment in every parish, ministry, and activity. This includes children, seniors, any who are physically, emotionally, or spiritually vulnerable, and those who are ministering in our Church.

The sign of Christ's life must be that our Lord teaches and invites respect for all and that all in the Church must be safe

We like to think all our members are dedicated, and every Anglican congregation is “just like ours”. The vast majority of our members are indeed above reproach but we must not close our eyes to the facts. We must, morally, legally and spiritually, do all we can to make sure our church; its clergy, paid and lay workers, and the participants in our church-sponsored activities are as safe as is possible.

This brochure is a signal of co-operation with our many Partners in caring, including

- Volunteer Canada*
- Other Anglican Dioceses*

For more information, you may contact the Synod Office or DART. Related materials are also available for downloading, on our Web page, at www.edmonton.anglican.org

**Volunteer Canada*

430 Gilmour Street
Ottawa Ontario K2P 0R8

*Screening in Faith Project Team
Anglican Diocese of Ottawa,
71 Bronson Ave., Ottawa,
ON K1R 6G6, (613)233-6271, ext. 232.

The Ten Safe Steps of Screening in Faith

BEFORE YOU RECRUIT:

1. **Determine the level of risk**
2. **Write a clear volunteer ministry description**
3. **Establish a formal recruitment process**

CHOOSE THE RIGHT PERSON:

4. **Use an application form**
5. **Conduct interviews**
6. **Follow up on references**
7. **When appropriate, request a Police Records Check and Child Welfare Check**

AFTER HIRING/ACCEPTING:

8. **Conduct orientation and training sessions**
9. **Supervise and evaluate**
10. **Follow up with programme participants**

Diocese of Edmonton



Screening in Faith



The 10 Safe Steps

10035 - 103 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 0X5 Canada

Phone: (780) 439-7344

Fax: (780) 439-6549

E-mail: churched@edmonton.anglican.ca