



Archdiocese
of Toronto

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MEDIA RELEASE

As Summer Begins, Archdiocese of Toronto Turns Up Heat on Members of Parliament to Revise Summer Jobs Application Process

TORONTO (June 21, 2018) As summer begins today, Catholics across the Archdiocese of Toronto are hoping to turn up the heat on federal grants providers.

Thousands of charities across Canada are feeling the impact of new application requirements for the Canada Summer Jobs program. To be eligible for funding, employers must affirm an attestation that both the job and the organization's core mandate respect certain "values" determined by the federal government. Organizations unable to endorse the attestation on moral grounds have been refused funding in 2018.

In the Archdiocese of Toronto alone, this change in policy directly impacts 27 charitable organizations. These groups applied for more than \$1.1 million in funding to hire 150 summer students at camps and other charities, serving children with special needs, at-risk youth and refugee families. Across Canada in 2018, 1,559 or 3.65% of all applications were rejected after the groups did not affirm the attestation. In 2017, there were only 126 rejected applications, or 0.3% of all submissions.

In response to this situation, a communication from Cardinal Thomas Collins, translated into nine languages, has been shared with 225 Catholic churches in the Archdiocese of Toronto. In the letter, Cardinal Collins asks concerned citizens to respectfully write to their Members of Parliament through a special website (savesummerjobs.ca), highlighting concerns. As the cardinal states:

"We should all take note when a government claims to value the contributions of faith communities but requires them to profess a set of values which is against their faith in order to be eligible for government funding."

Cardinal Collins is also personally writing to Members of Parliament in the local ridings where Catholic organizations were deemed ineligible this year due to their opposition to the attestation.

Many churches in the Archdiocese of Toronto are fundraising to support those groups previously funded by the Canada Summer Jobs program. Donations can also be made at savesummerjobs.ca.

The Archdiocese of Toronto is Canada's largest diocese, stretching from Toronto north to Georgian Bay and from Oshawa to Mississauga. It is home to 2 million Catholics and 225 churches, with Mass celebrated in more than 30 languages each week.

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