



L'HONORABLE ANDRÉ DENIS  
JUGE RETRAITÉ DE LA COUR SUPÉRIEURE DU QUÉBEC

**STATISTICAL AUDIT**

**1940-2021**

**REGARDING INSTANCES OF SEXUAL ABUSE  
OF MINORS AND VULNERABLE ADULTS  
IN THE ECCLESIASTICAL PROVINCE OF MONTREAL AND  
IN THE ECCLESIASTICAL PROVINCE OF GATINEAU**

**PREPARED BY  
The Honourable André Denis  
Retired Judge, Superior Court of Quebec**

**AT THE REQUEST OF**

**Most Rev. Christian Lépine  
Archbishop of Montreal**

**Most Rev. Louis Corriveau  
Bishop of Joliette**

**Most Rev. Claude Hamelin  
Bishop of Saint-Jean-Longueuil**

**Most Rev. Raymond Poisson  
Bishop of Saint-Jérôme**

**Most Rev. Noël Simard  
Bishop of Valleyfield**

**Most Rev. Paul-André Durocher  
Archbishop of Gatineau**

**Most Rev. Raymond Poisson  
Bishop of Mont-Laurier**

**Most Rev. Gilles Lemay  
Bishop of Amos**

**Most Rev. Guy Boulanger  
Bishop of Rouyn-Noranda**

**May 9, 2022**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of Montreal and the **Ecclesiastical Province of Gatineau** asked me to accept the following mandate: examine the archives of their respective dioceses and identify any evidence of sexual abuse perpetrated against minors and vulnerable adults.

This study covers the period from 1940 to 2021 and is based upon the files of bishops, priests, deacons, pastoral associates and diocesan staff involved in pastoral ministry.

The bishops' only instruction was that no one was to be excluded from the scope of this study, given that any instance of sexual assault committed by a person in a position of pastoral authority is one too many. Concern for victims was to be paramount in guiding my work.

I asked for and was given complete freedom to examine, without any restrictions whatsoever, all documents wherever they were located in the various dioceses. I had the full co-operation of the bishops as well as of their entire staff. They answered all my questions and inquiries; they responded to my requests, whatever they might be, throughout the research.

Having access to all information regarding the pastoral appointments that each bishop made for each one of his priests, I was unable to detect any significant or systematic transfer of priests from one parish to another once it was discovered that a cleric was implicated in a condemnable act.

I had access to all areas, filing cabinets, vaults, secret files and bishops' notes compiled throughout the years – everything. I asked questions; I opened all doors. No one attempted to prevent me from carrying out my work. I was welcomed everywhere as being someone who, out of concern for the victims, was seeking to establish the truth about this painful reality.

I wish to reiterate that I conducted my work in total freedom and without hindrance, pressure or direction of any kind being exerted by anyone, whether religious or lay person, whether directly associated or not with the particular diocese.

I submitted my report to each bishop regarding the situation in his diocese from 1940 to 2021.

I must emphasize that, in all the files that I examined, I assume personal responsibility for every decision made regarding whether or not to classify a reported instance as sexual abuse.

I hereby state that, to the best of my judgment, having considered the documents that were at my disposal – the veracity of which I assessed using every means possible – the conclusions I draw are rigorously representative of the situation that existed between 1940 and 2021 in the **ecclesiastical provinces of Montreal and Gatineau**.



André Denis

Retired Judge, Superior Court of Quebec

**STATISTICAL AUDIT 1940 - 2021  
ECCLESIASTICAL PROVINCES OF MONTREAL AND GATINEAU**

|  |                   |                          |
|--|-------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>6,809 Files</b>                                   | <b>87 abusers</b> | <b>1.28 % of files</b>   |
| Diocese  | Area population   | %                        |
| Montreal   | 2,460,000         | 55.03 %                  |
| St-Jean - Longueuil                                  | 820,000           | 18.34 %                  |
| Joliette   | 285,000           | 6.38 %                   |
| St-Jérôme  | 600,000           | 13.42 %                  |
| Valleyfield  | 305,000           | 6.82 %                   |
| <b>Population of the Eccl.<br/>Prov. of Montreal</b> | <b>4,470,000</b>  | <b>52.25 % of Quebec</b> |
| Gatineau   | 365,000           | 55.73 %                  |
| Mont-Laurier   | 95,000            | 14.50 %                  |
| Amos   | 135,000           | 20.61 %                  |
| Rouyn-Noranda  | 60,000            | 9.16 %                   |
| <b>Population of the Eccl.<br/>Prov. of Gatineau</b> | <b>655,000</b>    | <b>7.65 % of Quebec</b>  |
| <b>Total of Montreal et<br/>Gatineau</b>             | <b>5,125,000</b>  | <b>60 % of Quebec</b>    |
| <b>Total Population of<br/>Quebec</b>                | <b>8,555,000</b>  |                          |